

Friday June 21 1996

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| Albania L 220 | Hong Kong HK\$ 25 | Qatar QR 8.50 |
| Austria FF 10 | Hungary F 200 | Romania Lei 10,000 |
| Bahrain B.D. 2.00 | Indonesia Rp 1,000 | Slovakia SK 50 |
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,585

Arts, books and music

Why Disney is making enemies

Beck: the accidental pop star

Review

Mouse in a hole



King of the slackers

Books: Carl Hiaasen, Will Self, Peter Preston

Plus: Françoise Hardy returns

Major seeks to block resignation on eve of summit

I want out says Euro minister

Michael White Political Editor

THE Foreign Office minister responsible for key negotiations over Britain's relationship with the European Union has written to John Major asking to resign from the Government.

The decision by David Davis is motivated by a mixture of personal frustration and dissatisfaction with the thrust of EU policy, senior Tories revealed last night.

One well-placed right-winger said last night: "He has left his resignation letter with the Prime Minister, who said 'I'm sorry, I'm not accepting it'. But I think you will find that he will go if he isn't given anything."

Any resignation at this stage would have an incendiary effect on a jittery Tory Party trying to keep the lid on the split between right and left, pro and anti European.

Mr Davis's letter of resignation is doubly embarrassing as it comes on the eve of the Florence summit, where the final delicate negotiations that Britain hopes will see a lifting of the beef ban will take place.

It would also be seen as further proof that ministers are manoeuvring for the post-defeat, post-Major succession battle after Tony Blair has won the forthcoming election.

So far, Mr Davis has been talked out of resignation by friends and by the Prime Minister, who is said to have



David Davis... tipped as leadership contender

hinted at promotion, possibly to the Cabinet, for the Minister for Europe when the expected reshuffle comes in July.

Other middle-ranking ministers are rumoured to be poised to resign before the election, including one pro-European who is standing down next time.

Some MPs had expected the highlighting Mr Davis to be among the ministers and shadow ministers made privy councillors in last weekend's Birthday Honours List. The fact that he was not is said to have disappointed the 47-year-old minister, who has been MP for Southferry since 1987 and has been tipped as a future leadership contender.

By reputation he is a young Thatcherite and Euro-sceptic who was given his present post — like his predecessor, David Heathcote-Amory — precisely because his presence will reassure fellow-

sceptics that the Foreign Office will not sell out British interests.

When the ex-grammar school boy was appointed to the Foreign Office it was rumoured that the then Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, was unhappy. Mr Davis, a former whip, had a reputation for a robust style and straight talking, considered by some to be out of place in the FO.

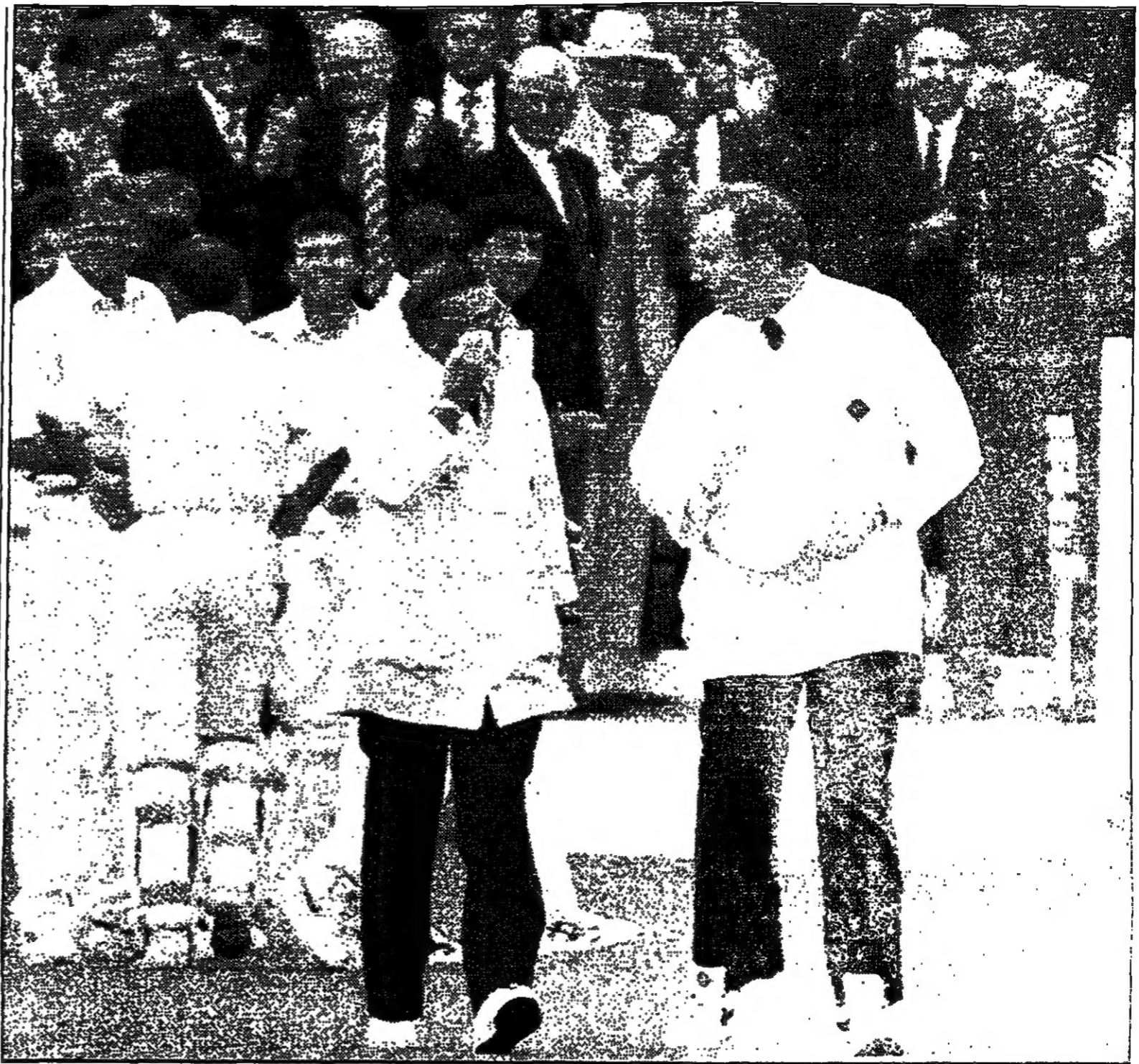
Earlier this year he was among ministers dispatched to EU capitals to promote Britain's case that it had been mistreated in the beef war, and was winding up last night's pre-summit Commons debate on Europe, a twice-yearly event, before joining the official party in Florence for today's summit opening.

Among Mr Davis's duties is negotiating in the EU's inter-governmental conference (IGC), now reviewing the workings of the Maastricht Treaty.

Though Mr Major's IGC white paper proposed "partnership of nations", with variable degrees of commitment to political and economic integration, as the best model for expanding the EU to the south and east, many Tory Euro-sceptics believe that the Cabinet's agreed language will not be matched in practice.

Mr Davis is thought to have been close to quitting a few weeks ago. Some Tories claim that "a heavy operation is now in place to talk him down, a rubbishing job," in case he does resign.

Major's 'victory,' page 2



PHOTOGRAPH: JACQUELINE ARZY

"Bird had entered the field a good two minutes after a respectful PA announcement, making one wonder whether he had paused for a last visit to the loo. He walked, back slightly bent, through a guard of honour formed by two applauding teams. As he headed for the square, he turned to deliver a wave that needed only the addition of a pipe and a Gannex raincoat to look the very spit of Harold Wilson" David Hopps, page 15

At this point in the play, menace can be heightened by the arrival of a helicopter and a police task force

Duncan Campbell

OFFICER: Now hear this. You are mountain people. You hear me? ... It is not permitted to speak your mountain language in this place. ... It is outlawed. You may only speak the language of the capital. ... You will be badly punished if you attempt to speak your mountain language in this place. This is a military decree. ... Any questions? — Mountain Language by Harold Pinter



smashed, and police entered the building.

ARMED men in uniform hooded hostages held at gunpoint. Automatic weapons. It seemed the stuff of urban nightmare.

When a concerned resident of Haringey, north London, spotted a group of armed and uniformed men entering the local Kurdish community centre, the police responded in numbers.

Officers sped to the scene in Portland Gardens. Police marksmen stationed themselves on rooftops with automatic weapons trained on entrances and exits. A helicopter was dispatched. Tension mounted.

Those emerging from the hall were told to put their hands up, grabbed, handcuffed, and forbidden to communicate with one another in Kurdish or Turkish. Finally, after an hour, doors were

The 25-minute play, first performed at the National Theatre in 1988, is about the persecution of people who choose to speak their own dialect. In the course of it, hooded prisoners are interrogated and tortured.

Last night, Scotland Yard confirmed that officers had responded on Wednesday

night to reports of armed men in uniform. There had been fears of a potential riot between members of the Turkish and Kurdish communities, between whom relations have been volatile because of the treatment of the Kurds in Turkey.

Yesterday officers were trying to patch up doors and community relations with apologies and promises of speedy repairs.

"It was really tense and really OTT," said the community centre's co-ordinator, Sheri Laiser. "There were about 50 or 60 officers. People tried to explain that it was just a rehearsal of a play. We had told the local police station last Sunday about it and they said there would be no problem. We even had receipts for the plastic guns from the National, but the police wouldn't listen to anyone who was Kurdish or let them talk to each other."

Harold Pinter, who said his play was inspired by the Kurdish situation although not specifically about the Kurds, said: "The line between fiction and reality sometimes becomes very blurred."

He added that he was touched that a Kurdish group was performing it and intended to see it when it reaches the stage next month at Hoxton Hall in east London.

Alias theory over man named in M25 killing

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

DETECTIVES yesterday named the man they want to interview over the M25 "road rage" murder as Anthony Francis of Bexley, Kent. But police sources last night suggested that the name might be an alias used by members of the underworld.

The detective leading the investigation urged Kenneth Noye, who was cleared of the murder of an undercover policeman but jailed over the £36 million Brink's Mat robbery, to come forward and eliminate himself from the inquiry. He has been reportedly sighted in Cyprus, Marbella, Tenerife and Paris since the investigation started.

Stephen Cameron, aged 21, an electrician, was knifed to death on May 19 at the M25/M20 intersection in Kent, following a minor altercation. His fiancée, Danielle Cable, aged 17, watched in horror as he was attacked.

Someone with the name Anthony Francis used to live at Bridgen Road in Bexley although he has not been seen there since last month. Detective Superintendent Nick Biddiss, who is leading the investigation, said at a news



Kenneth Noye, left, and a police videotiff of their suspect



conference in Canterbury that he believed Mr Francis might have important information.

Mr Francis was described as aged between 20 and 30, 6ft tall, and stocky. But detectives said they had been unable to find anyone in the area who knew him although two women at his address had been interviewed.

"We have to find Mr Francis, who is shown as the registered owner of the vehicle," said Mr Biddiss. Police also gave details of the vehicle they want to trace: a dark blue or grey Land Rover Discovery, registration L794 JTF.

Police sources last night confirmed that it was possible that "Mr Francis" was a

"ghost", a name of convenience used by local criminals.

Mr Noye, from West Kingdown, Kent, left the country shortly after the murder. Reports have placed him in Spain, France, and the Turkish area of Cyprus. He was released from prison in 1984 after serving eight years of a 14 year sentence for handling proceeds from the 1983 Brink's Mat bullion robbery near Heathrow airport.

In 1986, he was acquitted of murdering Detective Constable John Fordham, who had been hiding in his grounds on surveillance duty. Mr Noye said he had acted in self defence.

No one at Mr Noye's home wished to comment last night.

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The Guardian theObserver Premier Newspapers

Inside

Britain

A surge in demand for property in the spring fuelled speculation that the housing market has emerged from its six-year recession.

2

World News

Boris Yeltsin sacked three of the most powerful men in his government amid allegations that they had tried to stage a coup.

7

Finance

London's position as the centre of world commodity trading has been jeopardised by the Sumitomo copper scandal.

11

Sport

England recovered to 236 for 5 in the Lord's Test. Classic Cliche won the Ascot Gold Cup. Thomas Muster pulled out of Wimbledon.

16

Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10; Weather 16
Friday Review
Music 7-9; Books 10-13
Crossword 15 Radio, TV 16



Sketch

Snatching defeat from jaws of failure



Simon Hoggart

JOHN MAJOR did what he always does when soundly defeated: he declared victory and roundly abused anybody who disagreed with him.

(C. Northavon) who, as an ex-Treasury minister, should know better. The Government had been entirely right to use its veto to block business in Europe.

Aitken delighted as inquiry clears him of wrongdoing in arms-to-Iran affair

David Pallister

JOHN MAJOR did what he always does when soundly defeated: he declared victory and roundly abused anybody who disagreed with him.



Jonathan Aitken, who may return to political frontline

Iran when he was a £10,000-a-year non-executive director from 1988 to 1990.

time, the then Trade and Industry Secretary, told the Commons that intelligence reports from 1986 to 1988 suggested that BMARC's naval cannon shipped to Singapore were probably diverted to Iran.

at a board meeting that Mr Aitken attended, were impossible to substantiate.

how Granada and the Guardian would continue to defend their libel actions against him which he claimed relied heavily on Mr James's evidence.

"What Mr Aitken does not mention in his statements is that Granada and the Guardian have been seeking an early date for the trial of his libel actions so his claims may be tested, not before parliamentary colleagues but before a jury and under proper cross-examination.

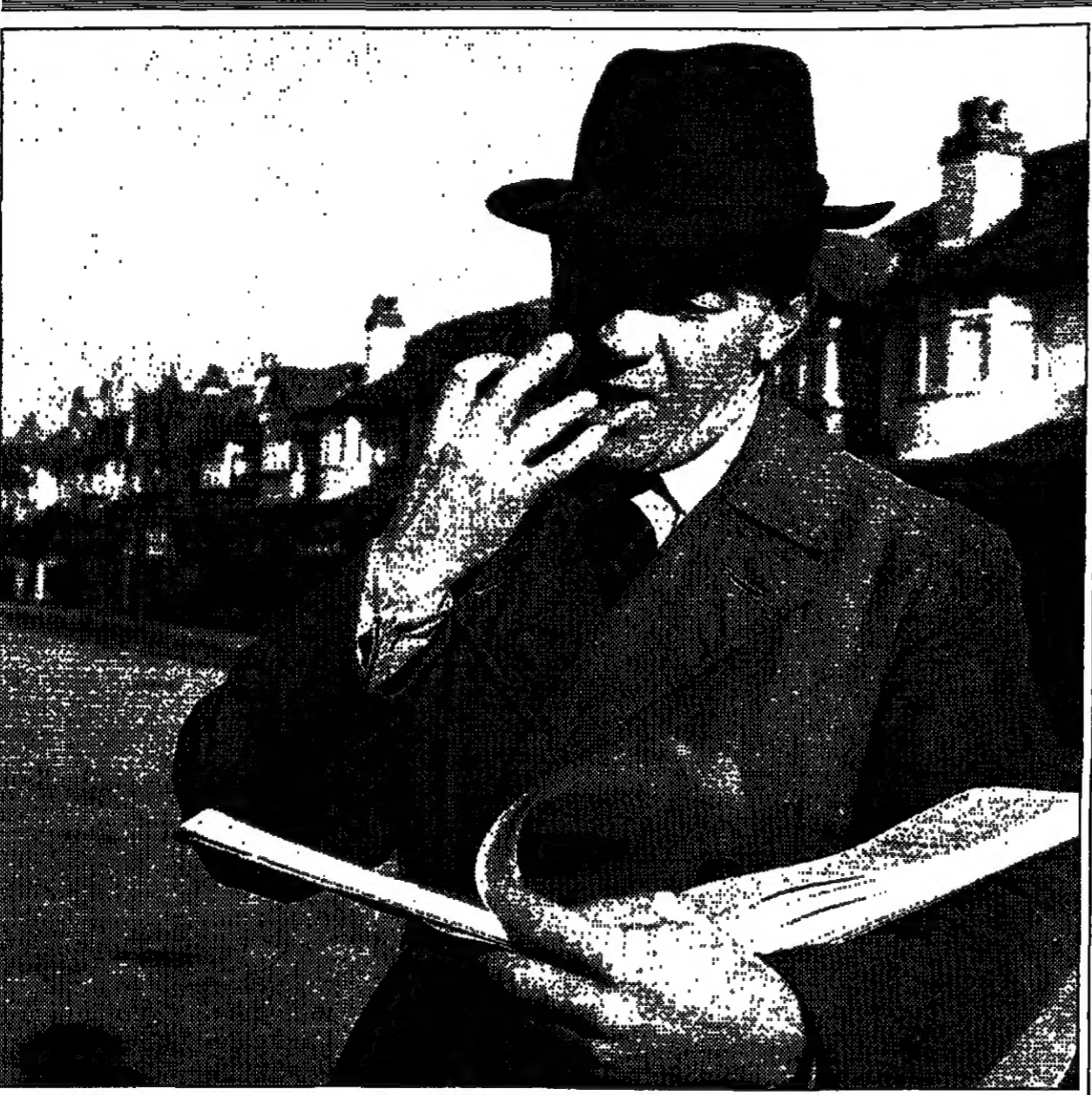
Review

Jeffrey Bernard is not unhappy

John Cunningham

THIS review wasn't going to appear for another 10 days, after a Channel 4 profile of Jeffrey Bernard.

threshold routines. And while the columns may be as much a ritual for him as for readers — do you turn to the back of the Spectator to check whether he is dead or you are alive — they are riveting.



On the road in the days when salesmen were sent out to sell insurance after only a day's training

Death of a salesman as recession and watchdogs take their toll

MORE than 145,000 sales representatives have left the life assurance and pensions industry since the boom years of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

TEACHERS, police officers, miners and postmen were among those lured in their thousands by the "get rich quick" promises of an industry which grew rapidly in the 1980s.

who trusted them. "People don't plan to fail," they said, "they fail to plan."

Combined with tougher rules for the training and competence of sales staff, such action by financial watchdogs has prompted many thousands to leave the industry.

Golden lure that tarnished

But, even before the industry's ranks were swollen by such people, there were more investment salesmen than postmen. At one for every 120 households they enjoyed a higher ratio to members of the public than GPs.

scandals culminating in the pensions mis-selling fiasco that came to light in the early 1980s contributed to the culling of salesmen.

Eighteen months ago the City regulators ordered all financial companies to review cases where people had been persuaded to switch from their employer's pension to a private pension. This followed evidence that many had been wrongly advised.

Combined with tougher rules for the training and competence of sales staff, such action by financial watchdogs has prompted many thousands to leave the industry.

Major claims beef war victory with proposed lifting of ban

JOHN MAJOR flew last night to the European Union summit in Florence with Opposition taunts ringing in his ears on the proposed deal for a phased end to the beef ban.

offer from Brussels was no improvement on what Mr Major could have achieved by negotiation rather than a policy of non-cooperation.

summit's endorsement of a framework agreement gradually lifting the ban.

extra 20,000 to 30,000 cattle — on top of the 80,000 already earmarked for the BSE eradication programme — has opened the way to agreement.

Politicians must take lead in rationing health care

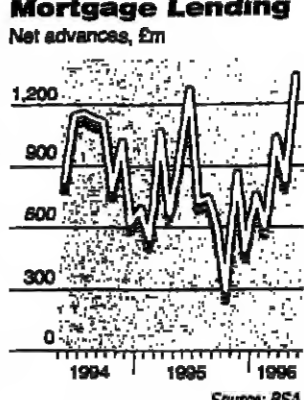
THE chief executive of a health body which refused to fund treatment for leukaemia victim Jayme Bowen, yesterday called on ministers to take responsibility for rationing health care.

authorities would lose public support if left to cross the "moral minefield" by themselves. He criticised political parties for ducking the issue.

Lenders predict housing revival

Larry Elliott and Sarah Ryle

THE Government was given a glimmer of hope yesterday that its political fortunes might be on the mend with news that the spring house-buying season was marked by a surge in demand for property.



Lending by building societies last month was up by more than 40 per cent on May 1995, fuelling speculation that the emergence of the housing market from its six-year recession will boost consumer confidence and the Conservatives' poll ratings.

City analysts said the strength of activity suggested that house prices would carry on rising throughout the summer, leaving the door slightly ajar for the Prime Minister to call an autumn election if Labour's huge lead starts to unravel.

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RUC chief warns of more bombs

David Sherrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE IRA will return to a full-scale campaign of violence rather than risk splitting but it would be short-lived, the RUC chief constable, Sir Hugh Annesley, said yesterday.

Delivering his final annual report before retiring this autumn, Sir Hugh demonstrated that he remains confident that the Irish conflict is firmly into the end-game.

In the short-term however, he predicted more bombs but noted that even this could not be certain. It was the most difficult period the intelligence services had known to have to interpret.

On the plus side, he believed that significant sections of the IRA's army council now favour peace. And he ruled out interarmistice as a short-term palliative but a long-term disaster.

"The current situation is worrying and unsettled. There is a possibility of further bombs on the mainland and within Northern Ireland. If there were a republican bomb in Northern Ireland I have little doubt that the loyalists would immediately retaliate and without warning and would look to hit targets within Northern Ireland and the Irish republic."

The activities of the provisionals had pushed loyalists to the edge. "It is to their credit that they have held together. I don't think it would take much now to push them over the edge."

Sir Hugh said that a very serious debate was being conducted in republican ranks over whether the future was to be war or politics.

"It's extremely difficult to read. I simply do not know what they will do tomorrow. They might call a ceasefire tomorrow, in a week, in a month or two years. Part of that is because they are unsure themselves."

He said that Sinn Fein and the IRA were unquestionably linked and the two major figures were Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. "There's no doubt in my mind that at the top of the republican movement the provisional IRA and Sinn Fein are inextricably linked so I do not see

this artificial distinction that's been drawn.

"I believe Messrs Adams and McGuinness are very, very influential people and I think they have a major say in the conduct overall of the republican thrust. There are of course other members on the army council and it seems that those arguing not for a resumption [of the ceasefire] may from day to day just be marginally in the majority."

"The difficulty is it seems to move from day to day. There are people in Sinn Fein who devote themselves solely to politics but the control of the movement at the top is clearly linked. There are members of provisional Sinn Fein on the army council and there are members of the army council on the political talks level of Sinn Fein."

Sir Hugh said he did not believe Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness could deliver a ceasefire. "You would need another two or three to come along with them. That can change, because people talk about the seven member army council but other people can be co-opted so it isn't often a straight vote."

"I think they play the situation as it's going and they're not sure which way to go."

He rejected rumours of a split within the IRA or between Sinn Fein and the IRA. "I don't think the IRA's going to split and I think they would go to enormous lengths to ensure that it did not split. I think it is a cohesive movement, there are differences of opinion. I have no doubt significant sections of the army council want peace."

"I think the difficulty is that some have been associated with violence for so long they don't trust the British, they don't trust the Unionists and now they're at loggerheads with the Americans."

"I do not see a split in those terms [Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness leaving the IRA behind] and you could potentially see more violence rather than have a split."

A major factor in the IRA's decision-making would be the effect of nearly two years of peace in Northern Ireland. "There's a huge feeling for peace, and any terrorist organisation, which thinks it can go back to violence with impunity is mistaken."

Sinn Fein's US fund-raising in decline since end of ceasefire

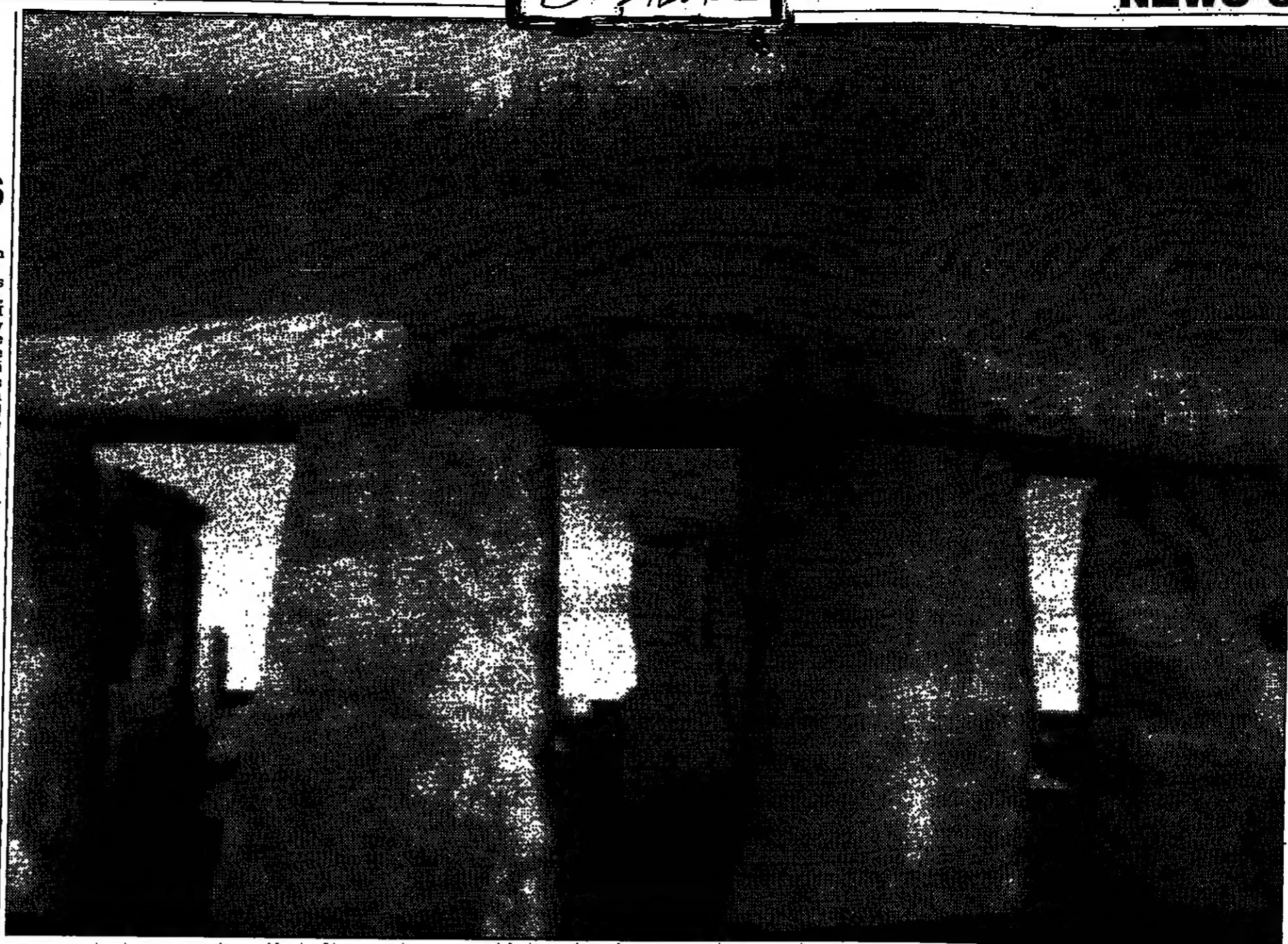
SINN Fein fund-raising has fallen dramatically in the United States since the IRA ended its ceasefire in February with the Canary Wharf bomb, writes David Sherrock.

According to returns filed by Sinn Fein under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, which governs fund-raising by outside bodies, the IRA's return to bombing has cost the party a financial cut of some four-fifths.

By November last year Gerry Adams had helped to raise \$1,170,018 (£700,000) in the US. The money funded the party's activities, including more than \$250,000 (£160,000) to help run Sinn Fein's Dublin office.

Since November Friends of Sinn Fein in the US has managed to raise only \$148,000 (£95,000) — less than the annual budget to run the party's Washington office. Of the \$148,000 total, more than half came from a single donor.

But Mairead Keane, head of Sinn Fein's Washington office and a member of its national executive, said yesterday: "We just haven't been involved in fund-raising for the last six months."



A photorealistic virtual reality model of Stonehenge, the megalithic monument on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire

It's a virtual walkover as Druids from all round the world are granted access to Stonehenge's magic circle — on the Internet

Maev Kennedy
Heritage Correspondent

TECHNO-Druids and Internet New Age Travelers are invited to download Stonehenge today, and celebrate the summer solstice on the Internet.

"People will be able to walk among the stones — virtually," Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said yesterday. "To walk virtually is better than not to walk at all."

No actual foot has been allowed into the circle, to watch the sun rise over the heystone marking the longest day, since a four-mile exclusion zone was granted in 1986.

The order came after years of confrontations with the police over attempts to hold solstice free festivals led to the Battle of the Beanfield in 1985, when hundreds were injured or arrested.

Every year since then has seen arrests, as thousands of people, ranging from protesters to King Arthur biker Pen-dragon, Hampshire biker turned once-and-future-king, have tried to get to the stones. English Heritage has abandoned its custom of inviting a few hundred guests, heading some carefully screened journalists and druids, to watch the sunrise from inside the stones.

The weather forecast suggests the real sunrise may be blotted out today by the first cloudy skies and heavy showers in weeks in Southern England. Virtual Stonehenge,

which has just been completed by the computer firm Intel, was put on to the Internet yesterday, and should be accessible from most PCs all over the world.

The programme, developed by archaeologists, scientists and computer technicians, includes many features invisible to the real eye. Millennia of development of the World Heritage site can be peered back on the screen, to the earliest circle on the site 5,000 years ago.

Details of the very first structures on the site, wooden totem poles 10,500 years old, similar to modern North American Indian poles, were published for the first time yesterday.

On the ground they are marked only as white discs in the tarmac of the public car park, part of the much reviled visitor centre, which was condemned as "a national disgrace" by a Commons committee some years ago.

On screen, the four poles, made from whole pine trunks, rise again to 34 metres high in a heavily wooded landscape.

A much more complex virtual reality model of the site, for headsets or high resolution computers, is still being developed, and will eventually allow viewers to get the sensation of touching the stones, as well as viewing them in minute scientifically accurate detail.

It will be available, with virtual reality versions of other monuments in the area, like Avebury and Old Sarum, at the planned new visitor

centre. English Heritage and the National Trust, which jointly own and manage the site, are applying for Millennium Lottery funds to restore the stones to a 4,000-acre parkland setting, without roads or electricity cables, and with all the fences and barriers removed.

A new visitor centre would be built off the World Heritage Site.

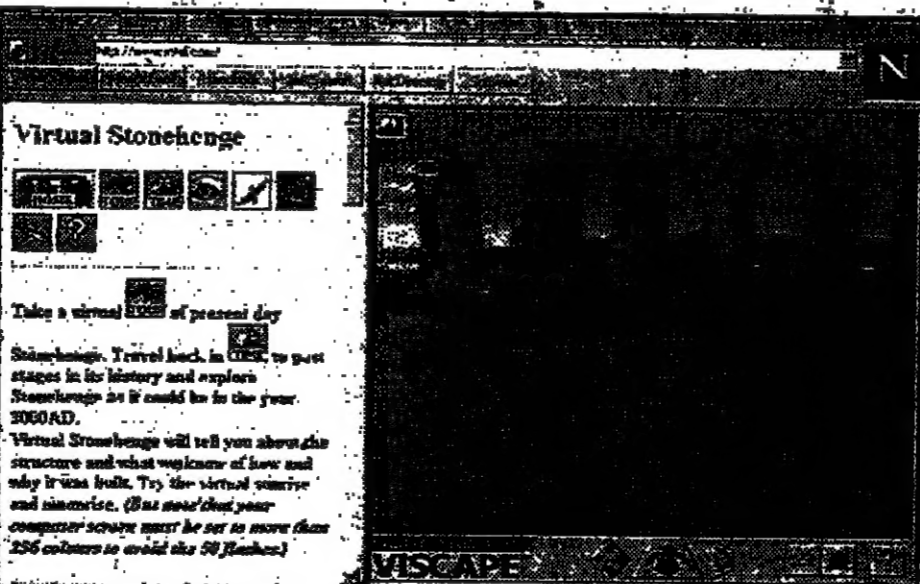
Virtual Stonehenge was launched yesterday as archaeologists and conservators agonised over actual access to ancient sites, in the wake of the vandalism of eight stones at Avebury earlier this week.

The stone circle, huge ditch, and stone avenue at Avebury are part of the same World Heritage site as Stonehenge, but are kept open and unfenced. The stones were completely covered with New Age symbols in black and white paint on Tuesday night.

Technical experts and archaeologists met at the site yesterday to study the damage. Initial studies suggest that the white paint is water-based and the black bituminous, but neither can be removed without damaging the lichen which cover the stones.

Chris Gingell, the National Trust manager at Avebury, said that his own staff checks and police patrols would be stepped up, but it was not intended to introduce uniformed security staff, or to restrict access to the site.

Virtual Stonehenge may be accessed on: <http://www.intel.com>



The experience of exploring the mysteries of Stonehenge on the Internet... Split screen view, with text on left and the stones on right



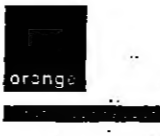
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4 BRITAIN

Labour sets out plans to cut car use

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

PENALTIES for car owners who insist on driving to work instead of using public transport are at the centre of Labour's new transport strategy to change the way people use their cars.

Yesterday Clare Short, shadow transport secretary, said drivers might have to buy a public transport travel card before being allowed to park in city centres.

Ms Short, launching the party's transport statement, Building Consensus, said in London: "This creates an incentive for drivers to leave their car at home or complete the final part of the journey by public transport." The measure could form part of a Labour government's plan "to encourage innovative ticketing schemes which promote public transport use".

Ms Short said that in an integrated transport system she would like to be able to pick up a telephone before travelling from one part of the country to another and be given information on all modes of public transport to make the journey, "right down to the exact street".

She agreed that Labour could not achieve a transformation "by simply punishing the car". But the hopeful sign was that people believed change was essential, and pollution was causing mounting concern. Hot, windless days caused crises in casualty departments, and Britain had one of the highest heart disease rates.

Ms Short drew criticism from the Tories for saying that the party had neglected the problems of travel between towns. More than 90 per cent of car trips were inter-urban.

calling for an end to "unnecessary mileage".

She promised a special advisory group to investigate ways of making car use less intensive, including car sharing, park-and-ride and permit systems. While ruling out motorway tolls, she said local authorities could be allowed to charge for road use if the proceeds were invested in improved transport systems.

She would like to see radio links on buses to enable people who feared the walk home to book taxis late at night. In rural areas, strategic bus services could be provided, fed by local shuttles which could also be booked by phone.

Labour would require each local authority to produce a 20-year strategy and road targets. "The notion that central government knows best and should have control over traffic signs and 20 mph zones in every town is ridiculous," Ms Short said.

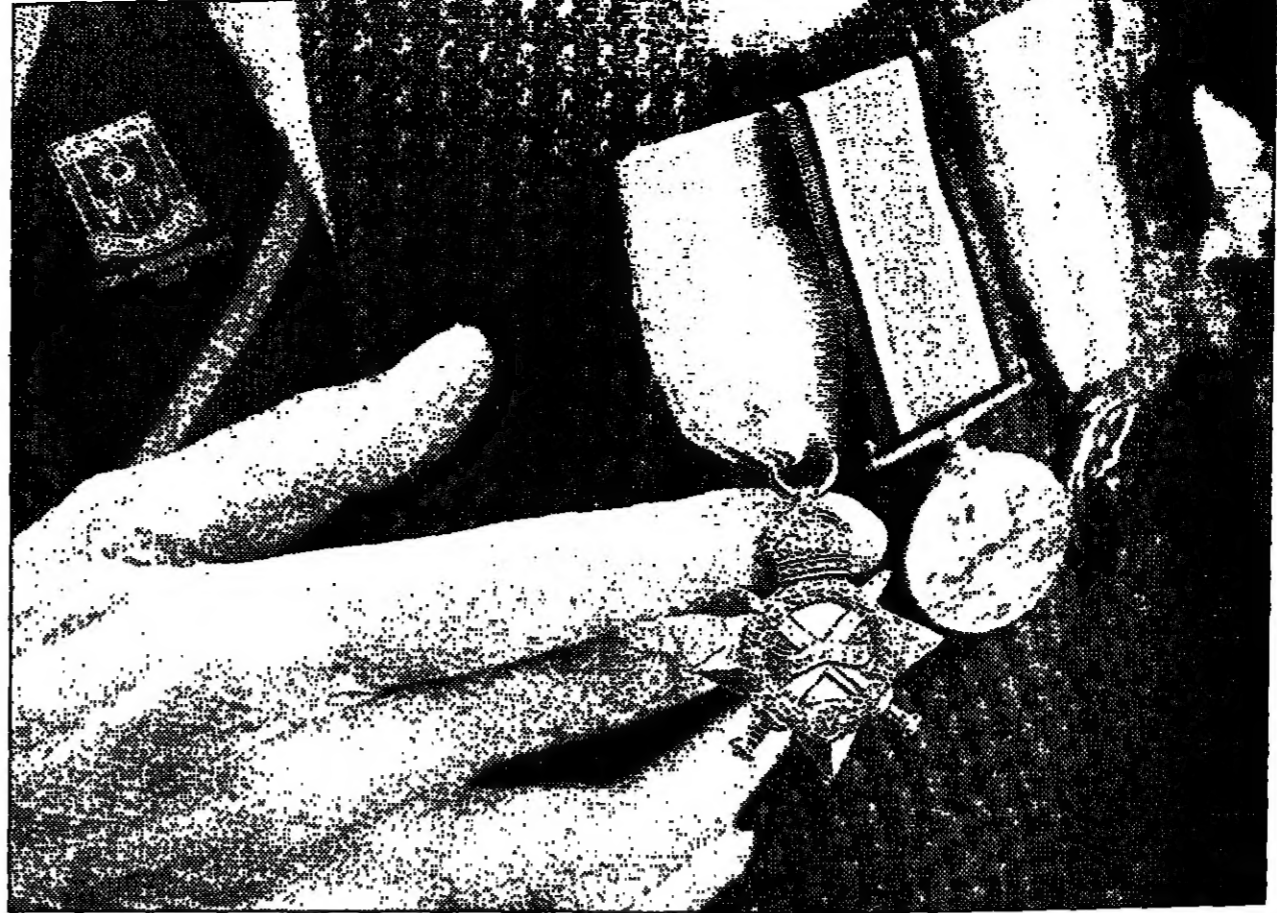
Conservative sources said Labour's statement clearly underlined its antagonism to cars. Labour was determined to give councils "big brother" status to dictate what "we can and cannot do and [revelated] their underlying instinct to meddle in our lives".

Accusing the Tories of hypocrisy, Ms Short replied: "They have forced up costs for car owners while denying them decent public transport. Their failure is epitomised by our clogged roads, spiralling pollution and declining bus and train services."

The RAC welcomed the emphasis on "freedom and flexibility" in Labour's plans and its proposals for improving urban transport. But it said the party had neglected the problems of travel between towns. More than 90 per cent of car trips were inter-urban.



Old soldier... Robert Burns in 1914, wearing his first kit, and (right) displaying his 1914/15 star in readiness for this year's July 1 commemoration



PHOTOGRAPH (above) BEN GUIR

Veteran relives Somme at age of 100

John Ezard hears bloody memories

PIVATE Robert Burns knew as soon as he went over the top in the battle of the Somme that something was badly wrong. Almost alone out of his generation, he lived to the age of 100 to tell the tale yesterday.

It was 4 o'clock on the morning of July 1, 1916. "A fierce bombardment from our side was supposed to have softened up the German lines - but it was almost bloody murder", he said.

"Shells were exploding everywhere amongst us. We got about 250 yards across no man's land, and we could actually see the Germans firing directly at us."

"I remember talking above the din to a comrade near me. When he did not

reply, I looked round and he was gone. He had taken a direct hit from a shell. It was quite clear early on that everything was not going to plan".

He and his comrades never reached the trenches they were supposed to overrun. By the end of the battle he was one of only 75 men still alive of the original 800 in his battalion of the Cameron Highlanders.

On Monday week - the 80th anniversary of the offensive - Robert Burns will be among a handful of survivors who return to the first of the great killing fields of the 20th century, the meadows where gunfire broke the hearts and bodies of the Pals battalions who had volunteered so keenly.

By the end of July 1, some 57,400 men were dead, the

biggest one-day toll in British military annals. Four months later Allied troops had gained 20 miles of territory and lost more than 600,000 soldiers. German losses brought the total to over a million.

'Shells were exploding everywhere amongst us'

Mr Burns, from Gourick, near Glasgow, will pay homage at his regimental memorial on the Somme during the anniversary. He joined the Cameronians because his mother had bought him a clan kilt as a

child. He kept a shorthand war diary which is now with the Imperial War Museum.

He spent his life after the war as a cinema and hotel manager. "I can certainly say the battle involved mismanagement of men on an enormous scale", he said.

Today, the Imperial War Museum publishes a commemorative book offering a revisionist view of the battle. The author, Malcolm Brown, whose father fought in the war, says that today a mood of "retrospective pacifism" is fashionable.

"But the alleged victims don't seem to have seen things that way. Even those who clearly deplored the brutal, inhuman aspects, believed there was no option other than carrying on

with the fighting. There was little argument as to the principle. The Germans were occupying French and Belgian soil and had to be removed. It was no more possible to say 'let them stay where they are and let's all go home' than it was to condone the occupation of a much greater part of Europe a generation later during the 1939-45 war.

"The prospect of a continent dominated by the autocratic empires of Germany and Austria-Hungary was clearly not one that appealed to the populations of the Western democracies - whether rich man in his castle or fighting man in his trench".

Book of the Somme, Sidgwick & Jackson, £20.

Eric Cantona refuses label and asks court to back him

FOOTBALLER Eric Cantona yesterday began a High Court action to stop Cantona French Wines Ltd using his name, writes Stuart Miller.

The Cheshire-based company outraged the Manchester United captain and his club with its use of a wine bottle label displaying a likeness of the United crest and the French striker's No7 shirt.

Use of Cantona's name was

not authorised by the club or the player, who earn no money from it. The company sells 1,200 bottles of the wine a day.

The High Court heard that Cantona would be seeking an injunction stopping the use of his name unless the company and its directors, Brandon Fyatt and Andrew Joseph, ceased using the labels before the main hearing on June 27.

Staff shock brings JobCentres down to earth

Seamus Milne
Labour Editor

MORE than 36,000 desks at JobCentres and other employment service offices are to be earthed at a cost estimated at £6 million after a staff member received an electric shock last month at an unearthed computer terminal.

An internal ES memo passed to the Guardian reveals that the government agency has broken the law by failing to earth desks which have metal parts, and warns that a nationwide earthing programme will impose a heavy burden on the service while the Job Seeker's Allowance is being introduced.

The staff member, Jane Geraghty, sustained burns to her back at Barnsbury JobCentre, north London, and was treated in hospital for a suspected heart attack.

A local Civil and Public Services Association representative said staff at another London Jobcentre were threatened with disciplinary action when they refused to use the unearthed desks after the incident. He said members of the public were also at

risk when they were interviewed by staff.

In the memo, Jim Lockie, senior estates manager for the ES south east region, said he had been advised since the accident that "it is illegal not to have desks with metal in them earthed". He added that if unions advised staff not to use their computers until safety could be guaranteed, it would be "an uncomfortable

situation for management to defend".

An ES spokeswoman said the memo represented an initial response to the incident, which had provoked panic in some offices. The service's executive board had brought forward its six-monthly electrical appliance check and had decided on the full earthing programme as a "belt and braces" measure.

But even without earthing, she said, the ES was "satisfied that our work stations are safe". Staff refusing to work at unearthed terminals had been given other duties "without any difficulty".

The memo put the cost of a comprehensive earthing programme at up to £750,000 in the south east region. There are nine ES regions, employing around 40,000 people.

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More gaming pull in

G

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More generous gaming laws pull in punters

Nick Varley

GAMBLERS in pubs and arcades last night were taking advantage of the latest liberalisation in gaming laws.

One-arm bandits and other gambling machines were paying out more than double the previous limit in cash prizes. While the top prize is only £10, machine operators hope the change will enable them to reclaim some of their loss in turnover since the launch of the National Lottery.

Becta, which represents the operators, believes almost all of the 12 per cent of business lost will be reclaimed.

Becta's chief executive, Warren Newman, said: "Fruit machines, before the National Lottery, were the most popular gambling activity in Britain. We hope there will be a return to it as a major flutter."

Previously winnings from the 210,000 gaming machines in pubs, takeaway shops and arcades were restricted to £4 in cash and £8 in tokens. About 160,000 machines are expected to be switched to cash-only prizes.

Mr Newman said the industry welcomed the reforms but said there was still "a major anomaly" in that those playing the machines must be

aged at least 18, as against 16 for the National Lottery.

"Someone of 16 can buy a scratchcard from their local newspaper and the prize is £50,000, but if they go to an arcade or cafe they have to be 18 and the most they can win is £10."

Thousands of new machines were already in position last night, ready for the first players seeking the bigger prizes.

But the change drew criticism from the National Council on Gambling, its chairman, Emanuel Moran, said the purpose was "to increase or at least maintain the profits of the owners of the machines. Profits by the proprietors mean losses by someone else — the punters."

"There are more than enough facilities around already. Even before the National Lottery there was more gambling in Britain than in other European countries."

Dr Moran, a psychiatrist who works with compulsive gamblers, added: "There seems to be an assumption that this is a bottomless pit and you can introduce more and more outlets."

"There is no doubt what is going on is going to increase the problem: the more gambling there is, the more there are going to be casualties."



Jockey Lester Piggott at Coral's bookmakers in London to usher in machines offering £10 prizes PHOTOGRAPH VICTORIA STOKES

Overworked Britons told to go home

Alex Bellis

PAGANS will presumably have taken the day off to prepare for tonight's summer solstice. But those at work should also join a mass ritual, according to a campaign that says the key to enlightenment is not staying late at the office.

Today is Go Home On Time Day, an event that could be seen as encouraging civil disobedience since eight out of 10 Britons never leave their jobs on time.

We are not a nation of layabouts, but of workers too afraid of going home before others for fear of being labelled a shirker, according to Parents at Work, a charity campaigning against the "long-hours culture" it says is sweeping Britain.

It claims most workers are unhappy about their hours, are struggling with heavy workloads and fear losing their jobs. Evidence is mounting that excessively long working hours are taking a heavy toll of people's health, it adds. Time off work with stress-related illness has increased by 500 per cent since the 1950s.

Director Lucy Daniels said: "People are caught in a vicious circle of continuous long working hours which are ultimately costly to business as well as to family life. Healthy businesses need healthy people if they are to compete and thrive in a competitive world."

A survey by Hays Accountancy Personnel to coincide with Go Home On Time Day found that two-thirds of workers believe their careers would suffer if they left the office on time every night.

Managing director Denis Waxman said it was worrying

Date lines

- Some dates for your diary:
- June 28: National Take Your Dog To Work Day
 - July 1: National Kissing Day
 - July 30: National Bog Day
 - August 19: National Squeeze Day
 - October 23: National Woggle Day
 - October: Apple Day
 - November 30: National Tree Dressing Day

that working late had become an ingrained habit for most Britons.

Shirley Reynolds, senior lecturer in clinical psychology at the University of East Anglia, said that blue collar workers were most affected by extended working hours.

She said: "If you talk to workers like nurses there is this kind of unofficial time at the end of their shifts where they feel obliged to stay because they are not in charge. People who have control over when they leave tend to do so and have lower stress-levels."

Almost 60 per cent of men suffer from illness as a result of work pressures, a survey this year found. At least 80 million working days are lost every year because of stress-related illnesses. An estimated six million people consult their doctors every year because they feel depressed or anxious, with a similar number suffering symptoms of stress-related illness.

Illegal immigrant arrested in church

Hong Kong man married to Briton to be deported after 17 years

Geoffrey Gibbs

POLICE and immigration officers yesterday raided a Methodist church in Cornwall to arrest a Hong Kong man who had taken sanctuary to avoid deportation from Britain where he has lived for more than 17 years.

Albert Tong, who is married to a Cornish woman, has been living in the chapel at

mouth and Camborne, said it was dreadful that a place of sanctuary could be violated in such a way.

"I thought this country was one where natural justice could be shown, and certainly to desecrate a church in this way is a natural disgrace."

The Rev Alan Bailey, superintendent minister of the Mounts Bay Methodist circuit, said he had been to see Mr Tong during the afternoon. Within minutes of his leaving, police and immigration officers had called at the church and made their arrest.

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Albert Tong: to be parted from wife and daughter

Why left is best for baby

Chris Millill

IT IS the enduring image of childhood — an infant cradled safely in its mother's arms — but does it matter which side it is nursed on?

Scientists today are putting forward a new reason why most mothers, as well as most fathers, instinctively prefer to cradle babies in their left arm — it helps the child's brain process the voice of the parent.

A number of studies have found that around 80 per cent of mothers and fathers prefer to cradle their baby on their left side, whether they are left or right-handed.

Harry Sieratzki, from the department of paediatrics at Hammersmith hospital, west London, says various theories have been advanced for the preference, the most obvious being that a mother frees her right hand for other tasks. But this has been challenged by studies showing left-handed mothers also prefer to cradle their infants on the left.

An alternative explanation has been that the baby's right ear is kept close to the mother's heart, where a child can best hear its soothing cadence. However, other studies have shown it is the voice of the



Cradling a baby to the left allows a parent to communicate and reassure more clearly, according to some researchers

mother, not her heartbeat, that a baby craves.

Dr Sieratzki, and Bencie Woll, professor of clinical communication studies at City University, London, say the reason is to free the infant's left ear to hear the mother's voice. They explain, in the *Lancet*, that this is related to the functioning of the brain. Its right side processes the musical quality of language which imbues words with emotion — and the right brain gets most of its information from the left ear.

The researchers conclude that mothers instinctively cradle infants on the left so they can speak directly into the left ear, and thus to the side of their brain that can best perceive the sound, if not the sense, of their words.

The researchers point out that the Talmud, the ancient book of Jewish law, advises: "A woman who begins to nurse her son should start on the left side, as the source of all understanding is from the left side."

Coroner calls for ban on soccer fan pub trips

Week Chaudhary

ACORONER called for a change in the law yesterday to prevent coaches carrying football fans from stopping at pubs, after recording a verdict of unlawful killing on a fan killed in a clash between rival supporters.

Paul Nixon, aged 65, of New Addington, south London, died in April last year outside the Fullbrook pub in Walsall, West Midlands, after a group of Manchester United fans ambushed a group of Crystal Palace fans shortly before the teams met in the FA Cup semi-final.

The four-day inquest in Walsall was told violence flared after the groups exchanged insults over Eric Cantona's kick on a Crystal Palace fan in January last year.

Coroner Aidan Cotter said the law on consumption of alcohol before matches, which prevented fans from drinking

on board a coach but allowed "that same coach to deposit 40 men to drink in a pub for three hours", made no sense. "It should not be beyond the wit of parliament to amend the law to make it an offence for coach operators to take people to a pub before a match. The law as it stands in an area, it needs to be changed and it needs to be changed fast."

The inquest heard Mr Nixon was with about 35 other Crystal Palace fans when the violence began in the pub car park. Mr Cotter described it as "10 minutes of hell" which left one man dying and another seriously injured. Walls were ripped down and concrete blocks, bottles and stones thrown at the Crystal Palace fans.

Mr Nixon was struck on the head with a brass block as he tried to board his coach. He collapsed and the vehicle's rear wheels ran over him. A post mortem examination showed before dying he had suffered serious head injuries

and a stab wound to the thigh.

Dennis O'Leary, aged 35, another Crystal Palace fan, underwent months of hospital treatment after a concrete block was dropped on him as he lay on the ground.

Mr Cotter, who described the scene after the violence as resembling a first world war battle field, said: "I was entirely satisfied a group of Manchester supporters deliberately attacked the Crystal Palace fans and their coach with a degree of violence that sickened everybody who saw it."

Despite a police investigation and 10 people being charged with offences ranging from disorder to manslaughter, no-one has been prosecuted for Mr Nixon's death. Detective Superintendent John Flinn, who led the investigation, said: "I welcome the comments of the coroner about putting more responsibility on coach owners. I would support the need for some sort of legislative action on this."

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6 WORLD NEWS

FLORENCE SUMMIT: Britain declared war and lost — and the rest of Europe intends to make sure it feels humiliated

Beef poisons hope for Italian talks

Any other business

TOP of the summit agenda — alongside unemployment — will be the state of negotiations on the Maastricht treaty review and how to accelerate progress towards a new treaty on European union.

With Italy due to hand over the presidency to Ireland at the end of the month, the goal of most EU leaders is clear. They want a draft treaty in their hands when they next meet in Dublin at the end of the year.

The job of the Florence summit will be — in the words of the Italian foreign minister, Lamberto Dini — “to give the whole process a new impulsion”.

Germany's Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac of France want to push forward the debate on Europe's foreign, security and defence policy.

They believe the recent Nato meeting marks a turning point on the road to a future European defence union. The EU could become as serious a player in foreign and security issues as it is in the world economy. Among the foreign policy issues to be discussed are relations with the United States, Russia, the Middle East and Bosnia.

Germany, backed by the Benelux states, Spain, and Italy, also wants the EU to take more responsibility for internal security — including immigration, asylum policy and the fight against international crime.

Large and small countries disagree on the distribution of voting powers in the Council of Ministers as the Union moves towards making more majority decisions.

But the main issue is what to do if Britain opposes any serious reform of the cumbersome, secretive and unaccountable system of decision-making set up by the Maastricht treaty.

The most likely answer is what the other member states call “flexible integration” and what John Major calls a Europe of “strategic partnership”.

Major on Wednesday the prime minister insisted that he would “not accept the pressure to develop Europe as a single train, with all carriages moving at the same speed”.

Earlier this year he said that the rest of the EU was entitled to opt for a more integrated, federal Europe, but if they did so they should “count us out”.

At the latest count, at least 12 of the other 14 member states were ready to pool further areas of national sovereignty and decision making in areas such as foreign and security policy as well as justice and immigration.

Included, EU legal experts have already begun looking at how such a two-tier Europe might operate and how, if Britain were to exclude itself, this would affect the rights of the British government in the Council of Ministers and British members of the European Parliament and Commission.

The Government may have calculated that only a minority of states would be ready for closer political integration. Units a few months ago this seemed plausible.

But now even those which cannot expect to make the single currency club in 1999 have said they intend joining as soon as possible thereafter. Almost all also want to be part of any other inner core groups set up by the Maastricht inter-governmental conference. — *John Palmer*

Major risk, low return

The 'war' has not brought the hoped-for poll boost, writes Michael White in London

WHEN the latest BSE crisis broke on March 20, who would have guessed it would shake the European Union to its foundations? Or that an end to British membership would be seriously discussed by Conservative ex-cabinet ministers amid bellicose rhetoric reminiscent of the second world war?

Hyperbole on both sides of the channel has grown more strident since a frustrated John Major upped the stakes on May 21 and announced his non-cooperation policy.

“Major goes to war over beef at last” crowed the Daily Mail as tabloid editors rejoined their armchair regiments and Tory Eurosceptics revelled in the prospect of a row which would crystallise the core arguments against federalism in the minds of British voters.

How dare they impose a worldwide ban on British beef? How dare they tell us to slaughter our herds?

In fact, the Cabinet's action was less a declaration of war, even a phoney one, than the work of a divided trade union executive calling its divided membership out on strike in the hope that the management would settle quickly rather than dig in.

But headline rank and file sceptics were delighted. They saw the row as a prelude to the solution of a host of other problems, such as fishing policy and the European Court.

Pro-European Tories were appalled by what they suspected was the worst foreign policy judgment in terms of national interest since Suez.

That left the pragmatists in the Cabinet, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine and Malcolm Rifkind, to try to ride the policy, stepping up their own rhetoric to cover their doubts and win a deal. From the start it was obvious that Mr Major's problem would be persuading the leads to go back to work with the inevitable less-than-ideal compromise package he hoped to get before today's opening of the Florence summit.

That was assuming that the management, in this case the cabinet, would be so obliging. Germany, in particular, may want the workforce to realise that militancy does not pay.

And back home, after weeks of biting his tongue, Tony Blair yesterday let rip: “It's not a deal, it's a rout,” he said at question time. But more importantly, Tory sceptics refrained from attacking the deal, far from victory though they know it is.

Farmers moan, but farmers will usually take the money in the end from the inter-governmental conference. — *John Palmer*

Kohl. He will let us know his verdict today.

But why did a normally cautious tactician like John Major take such a gamble?

After all, it was a British crisis, politically and scientifically. Too little had been done too late by a deregulatory, pro-farmer government.

Douglas Hogg, Britain's new and untested agriculture minister, spearheaded the domestic organisation of the cattle cull and the drive to get Europe to reverse its ban.

It was never a meeting of minds. The Europeans wanted Britain to sacrifice its cattle to save theirs. That was not a point Whitehall willingly grasped.

Mr Hogg proved to be up to neither task. On May 21 Mr Major created two “beef war” committees and sent his heaviest hitters out to battle.

By wrapping himself in the flag he aroused speculation of a snap election, the Falklands conflict replayed as farce. That was never a runner, but the crisis created danger for Tony Blair, who had been accused of playing politics with BSE in March.

If he now followed his instincts and derided the campaign, he could be accused of “selling out” Britain.

Mr Blair and the shadow Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, decided to temporise, to support the policy and wait to see if it worked. Many Labour supporters, including MPs, were unhappy at this cautious approach.

Less vulnerable on the patriotic charge and with less to lose, the Liberal leader, Paddy Ashdown, let rip. West Country Liberal Democrats like Paul Tyler, with good contacts in the National Farmers' Union, worked furiously to expose the shortcomings of the largely pointless cull programme which are only now being put right.

The beef conflict was yet another clash of cultures. The Thatcherised Britain was arrogantly confident that they were right. Relatively open in their public culture but crudely deregulatory in their instincts, they came up against a more organised, somewhat statist view of the world where such matters are dealt with behind closed doors.

Three months on, Mr Major insists he would not have got a deal but for his tough stance and those 20 votes of EU business.

But he has been forced to accept the realities of compromise. Brussels-style. He has also paid a serious price in terms of goodwill at the top table.

The loss of goodwill might be worth it if it could be balanced against a revival of fortunes in the opinion polls at home. But, so far, it cannot.

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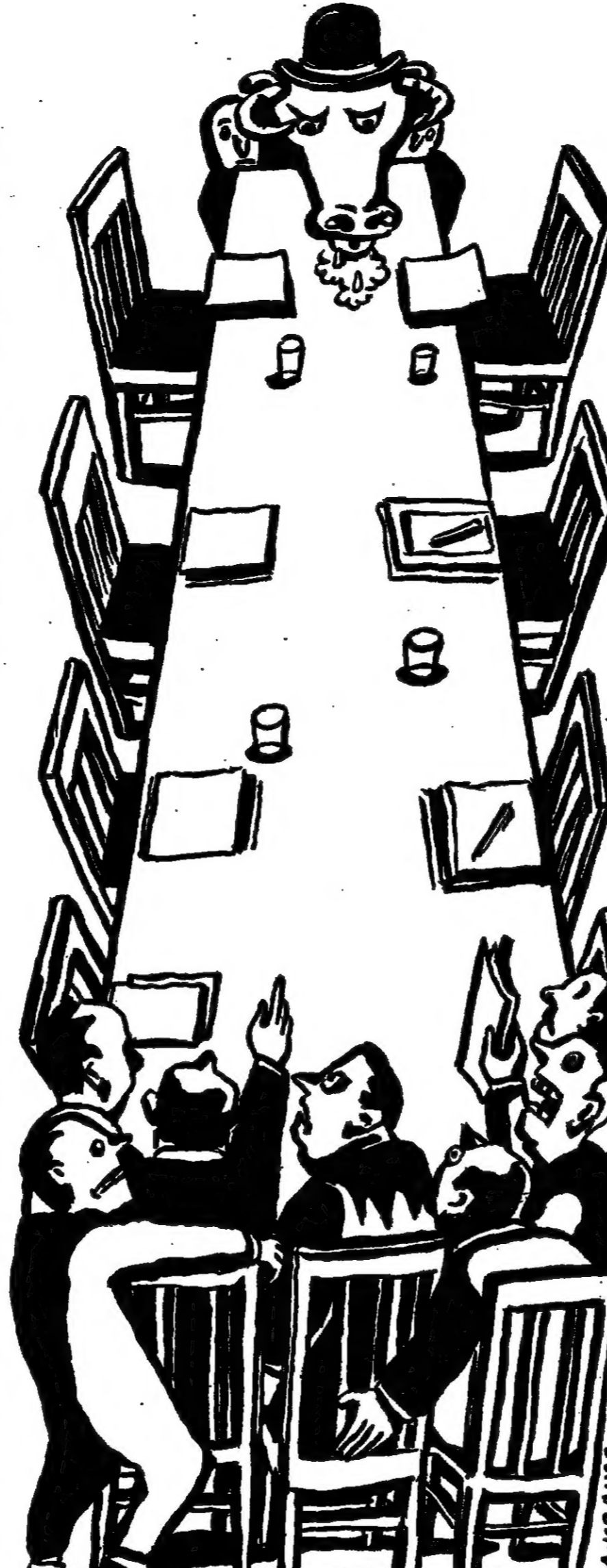
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Outbreak of unity in union

Members are as one in their desire to punish Major, writes John Palmer in Florence

THE British government, with its ill-fated “beef war”, has done more for the cause of European unity in a month than all the summit declarations of recent years about closer political union.

However the BSE issue is finally resolved, it will leave a lasting mark on Britain's relations with its European Union partners which not even a change of government will completely expunge.

For the 14 other countries of the EU, the British government's bullying, bluster and shameless evasions, combined with off-stage displays of crude xenophobia by Tory Eurosceptics and sections of the British media, have been profoundly educational.

The past month has made Eurosceptics of them all. Government ministers have found it very hard to grasp the long term damage they have done to Britain's position in Europe. There were warnings enough: privately, from British diplomats, and publicly, from other EU leaders.

But as the crisis dragged on, and John Major seemed keener to heed the strident demands of Eurosceptics than the pleas of his European partners, anger turned to contempt.

This is where the danger for Mr Major and his colleagues now lies. However British ministers try to sell their grudging acceptance of an EU framework agreement on a phased lifting of the beef ban as some kind of triumph, the other 14 states will trumpet the hoisting of a white flag over Downing Street. They are determined to deny Mr Major any opportunity to proclaim a victory, however cosmetic or short term.

The other EU leaders have read the British opinion polls. They know that most people blame the BSE crisis not on Brussels but on Mr Major's government and lax agricultural and food safety controls. If the prime minister ducks a decision on a framework agreement, Florence ends in acrimony and the war of attrition continues, attitudes will harden further.

The Government needs the goodwill and support of the EU to have any chance of restoring international consumer confidence in beef.

As the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, said recently: “The British government might think it can force the consumer to the dining table. But it cannot force the consumer to eat the beef.”

Contrary to appearances, negotiations in the European Union are not usually conducted on a win/lose basis, but rather on a win/win basis. In part that reflects conti-

mental European traditions of consensus politics. But it is also an acknowledgment of the difficulties involved in reconciling the interests and values of 15 member states.

Normally, leaders leave the negotiating table with enough of a figleaf to convince their national public that they — and not the others — have got their way. No one will offer Mr Major a figleaf after Florence.

The framework agreement will not be legally binding on Europe.

It will not include a timetable for the phased lifting of the ban, let alone a firm date for its complete removal: it will not allow Britain to sell beef banned in Europe to poor countries outside the EU; and it will be conditional on the British authorities proving by results that BSE eradication measures are working.

Moreover, Britain may have to agree to a further cull. The other EU leaders also have a plan up their sleeves to prevent Mr Major paralyzing the Florence summit if he does opt to reject the proposed beef ban deal.

The Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi, who will host the summit, will simply present the conclusions of the meeting — one of which have any legal impact — in

Europe hopes the worst of its problems will pass with the defeat of the Conservatives

The name of the other 14 governments.

The truth is that the work of the European Union is rarely brought to a halt by the kind of veto campaign which Britain has waged during the past month.

Mostly it delays decisions which were not due to be taken for some time, or puts on ice formal declarations of policy — against racism or sexism, for example. That upsets those who look to the EU for moral support but does not bring the system grinding to a halt.

The most important impact will be on plans for the future operation of the EU itself. The crisis has hardened the resolve to find ways of avoiding the kind of chaos threatened by Britain's tactics when the Maastricht treaty comes under review.

The hope is that the worst of Europe's problems with the British will pass with the expected defeat of the Conservatives in the next British general election.

Tony Blair has disillusioned some potential friends in the EU by supporting the Government's blocking tactics in the EU.

But his remarks in Bonn this week seem to hold the promise that a future Labour government will be readier to debate and compromise, not only on problems such as beef, but on the very future of the European Union.

Anxious farmers see bull market turn bearish

British tourists may simply not be safe in central France these days, the mayor of Sancoins tells Alex Duval Smith

BRITISH holiday-makers would do well to give the Sancerre region a wide berth this summer. “I shall have them turned away from the municipal campsite — for their own protection,” said Pierre Caldi.

As mayor of the town which hosts France's biggest livestock market, Mr Caldi was not impressed by Britain's decision to slaughter a further 67,000 head of cattle as a last-minute concession before the Florence summit.

“It may relieve European politicians, but it does nothing to reassure consumers,” he said as he stared out helplessly from the watchtower overlooking the Grivelles market.

“These guys are at their wits' end. Prices have been falling ever since the beef crisis began in March. The slaughterhouses are working at half capacity. Now you cannot give an animal away,” said the mayor.

In the market hall, the mood was bitter. It was 9am and the hell had just been rung signalling the start of sales of large cattle. More than 1,000 Charolais, Limousins and Friesians were lined up in pens. Their owners stood behind, leaning on their sticks, waiting to be approached by agents for knackers' yards.

Hervé Pitrau, aged 72, had brought along a couple of two-year-old Charolais bulls from his son's farm. They were fine-looking animals, weighing 870kg (1,911lb) and 842kg. “I shall have to take whatever price is offered. I have been bringing them here every week since January. It is costing too much to keep them fed,” he said.

“The trouble is, I will not get a foreign buyer because my green cards have expired.” He pointed to the date on the bulls' veterinary certificates. “To get new cards requires blood tests, which means spending another FF200 [€23] on each animal.”

An agent approached. “Fourteen francs,” he said. Mr Pitrau turned him down, gambling on the fact that it was only 9.15am and there was a good hour to go. He said: “I cannot look my son in the eye if I go back having accepted FF14 a kilo. Last year the price was FF20 or FF21.”

At least someone had shown an interest in Mr Pitrau's bulls. Jean Lagrange, aged 28, has been trying for three months to sell 15 Friesian cows which have come to the end of their milking life.

“The French government has just alarmed consumers further by announcing that meat from sheep with scrapie must not go into the food chain.

“Soon everyone will be vegetarian and a lot more farmers will have been killed off by this food crisis than Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease could ever kill,” he said, shaking with anger.

Mr Lagrange was joined by an irate group of six or eight men, tapping the concrete floor with their sticks as they attempted to make themselves heard.

“The British have no place in the European Union. They always have to do things their own way. It is irrelevant that they have agreed to more slaughter. It is too late,” said one.

“When we have cases of brucellosis or leukaemia we slaughter and burn, no questions asked. If there is one case of BSE, the whole herd goes. Why should British farmers be treated differently?” asked another.

Mr Lagrange blamed Margaret Thatcher: “This is liberalism taken to its extreme, just as she liked it.”

The chairman of the market, Alphonse Gayon, intervened: “You will not get anything sold by arguing. Return to your cattle.”

Mr Gayon said: “We are heading for a drought in this region. Whatever might have been gathered that meat from sheep with scrapie must not go into the food chain.

“Soon everyone will be vegetarian and a lot more farmers will have been killed off by this food crisis

One farmer blamed Margaret Thatcher. This is liberalism taken to extremes

When we have cases of brucellosis or leukaemia we slaughter and burn, no questions asked. If there is one case of BSE, the whole herd goes. Why should British farmers be treated differently?

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According to the national association of French farmers' unions, the decline in beef consumption has already cost its members FF2 billion (€250 million).

On Wednesday the French agriculture minister, Philippe Vasseur, tried to pre-empt an explosion of violence by announcing a compensation package, including an early retirement scheme for farmers, temporary exemption from social security payments, and more time to repay loans.

At Les Grivelles farmers heard a death knell in his offer.

Mr Lagrange said: “The government is telling us to quit at the age of 50. It is telling us that we must pay for all those years of intensive farming which we resisted in the first place.”

“Demonstrations are planned throughout France today and tomorrow.

By the end of trading, there seemed to be only one happy farmer. A Belgian had bought Mr Pitrau's two bulls for FF16 a kilo.

And the green cards? “Oh that! In a crisis, a farmer can always manage. The vet is going to give me a letter confirming that the bulls are still healthy.”

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Russian heavyweights are axed as President Yeltsin goes out of his way to make his new partner feel welcome

Hard men sacked in Kremlin purge

David Hearst in Moscow

DELIVERING a master stroke likely to win him key support in the second round of the presidential election, Boris Yeltsin sacked three of the most powerful men in his administration yesterday, to allegations that they had tried to stage a coup.

General Alexander Kozhakov, head of the presidential bodyguard and a confidant of at least 10 years standing, General Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the federal security service, and Oleg Soskovyets, the first deputy prime minister, were dismissed.

All had become obstacles to Mr Yeltsin's newly appointed security supremo, General Alexander Lebed, who joined the presidential team promising a law and order crackdown and reforms in the army. Their sacking makes Gen Lebed, the most powerful man in the country, with the muscle to place his men in the vacant posts.

He said: "I was never under Kozhakov's thumb. Can't you understand the fact that he lacks it up here? I don't want to be precise what he lacks, but it's the main thing."

After earlier in the day vowing to crush any rebellion in the ranks, Gen Lebed backed away from the conspiracy theory. He said: "This is a rather murky affair, which will take a long time to clear up."

Meanwhile the liberals in the Kremlin, who had been mortal enemies of Gen Kozhakov, were claiming a "victory for democracy". Anatoli Chubais, the former privatisation supremo, claimed that the three men had been preparing a coup.

They hoped Yeltsin would finish second in the first round and then they would suggest using force. But Yeltsin took first place and then took them by surprise by

cause they had no documents to account for the money, and that when the documents arrived they were then released.

If these two men's temporary detention was, as Mr Chubais and NTV claimed, the start of a coup, the alleged plotters have got off lightly. Previous coup plotters, such as the ones who organised the coup of August 1991, spent 18 months in prison. Not only are today's "plotters" still at large, one of them, Mr Soskovyets, says he expects a new job in government.

Since Gen Lebed's remarkable rise to power, after he came third in the first round of voting in the presidential election last Sunday, it has been clear that the balance of power in the Kremlin will be upset.

Gen Lebed demanded and got the post of secretary of the national security council. He further insisted on having real powers to get on with the job of reforming the army, clamping down on the mafia and making good his promise to restore law and order.

For this task he needs to control not only the key appointments in the army but also the army's budget. In his way stood Mr Soskovyets, the deputy prime minister, who controlled the military purse strings.

And behind Mr Soskovyets stood Gen Kozhakov and Gen Barsukov.

The clash of the Titans was thus inevitable. It took four days to unfold, and when it happened Gen Lebed emerged the victor. He has now had a clean sweep. With the sacking this week of the defence minister, General Pavel Grachev, he has the power to appoint his men to all the key security posts.

This is awesome power to be put in the hands of a young, ambitious two star reservist general.

What happens next is anyone's guess. Will the young general make good on his promises to respect the constitution, serve his president and respect the will of his electors? Or will he become a new tyrant, dispensing favours to his friends and instilling fear in his enemies?

The story of Gen Lebed's rise has little to do with democracy, free elections, or Russia's transition to a market economy. It has everything to do with the Byzantine and dangerous world of Kremlin politics.

It makes Lebed, after Yeltsin, the most powerful man in the country

making Lebed the secretary of the security council. The ground was slipping from under their feet, that is why they acted."

The furor broke late on Wednesday when two campaigners in Mr Yeltsin's team, the millionaire pop impresario Sergei Lisovsky and Arkady Yevstafeyev, an aide of Mr Chubais, were detained with the box of money at the White House.

Both claim that the money was to pay for the pop concerts put on for Mr Yeltsin's campaign. Mr Yevstafeyev said he was interrogated for 11 hours until the news of their detention was broadcast on a television bulletin, forcing their release.

Mr Chubais said their arrest would have been the start of a round-up of the liberals in the government, including himself, which would have ended with a coup. The allegation is that Gen Kozhakov was trying to set them up with the accusation that Mr Yeltsin was funding his own campaign with government money.

Security sources said the two men were stopped be-



Happier days... President Yeltsin (left) with Gen Kozhakov during the election campaign. His memoirs praise Gen Kozhakov's intelligence, but yesterday Mr Yeltsin said of his mental capacity: 'He lacks it up here'

Bodyguard who carved out his own empire

'Clever' Kozhakov was not content with security, but followed his leader to the top. James Meek reports from Moscow

WHEN Boris Yeltsin was a child, two fingers of his left hand were blown off by a wartime grenade he was playing with. Until yesterday, the idea of parting with his right hand man, Alexander Kozhakov, would have seemed hardly less drastic an amputation.

In the 11 years since Mr Yeltsin was assigned a bodyguard from the 9th (personal security) department of the KGB, he and his shadow have grown exceptionally close. But in the

end no leader, least of all a Tsar-like president, likes to see his shadow walking by itself.

Gen Kozhakov was born in 1950, the same year as Alexander Lebed, and joined the KGB 20 years later. He became Mr Yeltsin's bodyguard in 1985. When Mr Yeltsin was kicked out of the pollburo by Mikhail Gorbachev the two men went their separate ways, but kept in touch. According to the official version, these contacts prompted the anti-Yeltsin KGB to sack Gen Kozhakov in 1988.

According to Mr Yeltsin's memoirs, Gen Kozhakov phoned him. "He asked: 'Can I just guard you anyway, without being paid?' — and he came. He drove me in his private car. On days off I sometimes went round to visit him in his little hut in the country. We couldn't all fit into the house, we put up a tent nearby. We fished and swam in the river."

Gen Kozhakov followed

his boss all the way to the top: he set up a security service when Mr Yeltsin became chairman of the Russian parliament in 1990, and another when he was elected president the following year.

"Kozhakov and I are never apart," said Mr Yeltsin in his memoirs. "When

bodyguard were confirmed in 1994 when a squad of armed men in camouflage uniforms, wearing black balaclavas, swooped on the headquarters of the Most banking and media conglomerate in Moscow.

The attackers beat up Most security guards and made them lie in the snow for hours. Police and journalists who approached were warned to back off or be shot.

Not until two days later did it emerge that the men came from the president's security service, sent with the intention of intimidating Most group media, which was critical of the Kremlin, and the mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, who was believed by Gen Kozhakov to be harbouring presidential ambitions. None of the attackers was punished. The head of the federal security service, who had tried to intervene, was sacked.

Even before the Most incident the extent of the general's activities was exposed by the leak of a letter Gen Kozhakov wrote to the prime minister, Victor Chernomyrdin, in which Gen Kozhakov lobbied

against liberalisation of the energy sector.

In March last year Sergei Filatov, then Mr Yeltsin's chief of staff, hit out at the growing power of Gen Kozhakov's apparatus, which already included its own analytical centre and up to 20,000 staff. Mr Filatov said some Kremlin staff held conversations scribbling on pieces of paper for fear of bugging.

Although Gen Kozhakov's recent comments to the Observer that presidential election was dangerous and unnecessary shocked many Russians, the fact that a mere bodyguard should presume to comment on such matters was no longer enough to cause surprise.

The security chief had long felt free to express his harsh, authoritarian views in public. Attacking politicians who criticised Russia's actions in Chechnia, he talked of "... that group of unsound liberals, one-sidedly and falsely promoting the idea of the defence of human rights, which once again has shown its lack of understanding of the need for decisive action in critical situations."

'He's a very strong, brave person, though he appears simple'

we're on trips and I can't sleep, we sit up together. He's a very respectable, clever, strong, brave person, though he appears very simple on the outside. Behind this simplicity is a keen mind, a clear and excellent head."

Growing suspicion that Gen Kozhakov, promoted to the rank of general in 1992, was more than just a

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Arm twisting at the UN
 The Assembly must choose its Secretary General

THE APPOINTMENT of the UN Secretary-General has always been a secretive and undemocratic affair. The justification for allowing the "permanent five" to exercise a veto was that otherwise no consensus would be reached between the rival blocs. In the post-cold war age, this should be high on the list of needed reforms. Yet even under the existing rules Washington's announcement that it will veto Boutros Boutros-Ghali if he stands for re-election is arrogant and improper. It preempts a process of informal discussion and canvassing of names which in the past has taken several months. Washington, US officials say, has been "calling around to foreign leaders" in recent weeks to enlist them in its blocking campaign. Now Bill Clinton has chosen to twist the arms of his allies in the most public way — no wonder that France is furious and Britain is pained. Mr Boutros-Ghali had a perfect right to announce his intention of standing again, though he probably only did so to get his word in before the White House. There is a general assumption that the incumbent will run again and every previous Secretary-General has indicated his intentions in advance. (His not hers: the male domination of this job is another subject for reform). For the world's only superpower to assert its right to dictate so openly is imprudent: these matters are usually dealt with more discreetly. It is the biggest gesture of contempt for the Secretary-General's position since Nikita Khrushchev demanded in 1961 that the post be replaced by a "troika."

Mr Boutros-Ghali has not been a brilliant Secretary-General and several better candidates have already been mentioned. (Yesterday they were prudently ruling themselves out from a contest which has been soured before it begins). But the criticisms levelled against him by the US address the

wrong targets. Efforts have been made to tackle UN bureaucracy and overspending; the latter charge comes oddly from a country which has owed vast sums. The alleged "failure" of the UN in Somalia and Bosnia has more to do with the actions and omissions of the principal member-states than with the Secretary-General. In Somalia it was the US which insisted, for a time, in running the show disastrously under a UN flag. In Bosnia the UN peace-keepers were starved of funds and manpower to carry out an unrealistic mandate imposed on them by the Security Council. There is also a strong suspicion that if Mr Boutros-Ghali spoke better English, and if the Republican challenger Bob Dole did not get easy laughs out of mispronouncing his name, then Mr Clinton might have kept quiet and let the selection proceed through the usual channels.

The Secretary-General has suffered most of all — and the UN even more so — by the general down-grading of its reputation and role since the beginning of this decade. Western opinion has swung from extravagant hope to dismissive contempt — both equally unjustified. Four years ago the then Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd welcomed Mr Boutros-Ghali's appointment in this newspaper with warm words. Britain would support him in "using the Charter as the international community's principal tool of preventive diplomacy." Who mentions the Charter now — far less discusses the important proposals put forward by Mr Boutros-Ghali (and many others) to give the Charter more teeth — or just to implement what it already sets out? One such reform would tackle the veto including its use in this case. That is not going to change now but the General Assembly — which still has the right to reject a candidate — should insist on being properly consulted and on making the final choice.



Letters to the Editor
First catch the abuser

MICHAEL Howard's measures to tackle paedophilia (Sex of fenders page tagging, June 18) must be placed into some "investigative context", as it is widely accepted that few of fenders are actually convicted. The major flaw in the national response to paedophile offending can be seen in the organisation of the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS). In 1982 NCIS inherited something like a national register of paedophiles from the Metropolitan Police. This index of 3,000 card-files (5 per cent of whom had convictions) was "reworked", leaving only those of "national and international interest".

Last year these files were computerised, facilitating the "intelligence response" with the first "intelligence package" produced in May 1994. NCIS's restricted scope of action in this area eliminated the role it could have played in developing a national register of investigative use to all police agencies. The Paedophile Section of NCIS has recently enhanced its complement of officers — from one to three.

The Home Secretary's current proposals do not deal with the submerged dimension to the problem of organised sex offenders and how this is to be systematically investigated on a national scale. Rather than

high-profile media palliatives to this abuse, more structural exercises in openness and transparency are needed. Paul Norman, Centre for Legal Studies, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN.

PAEDOPHILES may be classified in many ways, yet they all have certain shared dynamic states-of-mind: their treatment cannot cure them; their paraphilia renders them deviant, pathological liars and lacking in insight regarding their destructiveness towards children; they, also, suffered in their own childhood; they will rarely be detected; they have an unrequited wish for power; they were not born to be paedophiles.

These are provable facts, therefore they should never be classified in a custodial sentence (until unequivocal cure), and the child-protection system should be radically changed, certainly removing social-services departments and the police from direct involvement with the surviving, disempowered children.

The investigative arena should be changed in such a way that non-politically-appraised responsible observers (the children's advocate) can be sure that the children are treated with respect, empathy

A violent debate about film
 (parental guidance suggested)

JOHNSON's argument that the film *Natural Born Killers* and its makers should be held accountable for the killing of a friend of his is ludicrous (5 Oliver Stone responsible for the consequences of this film?, June 19). If Grisham is so troubled by the Hollywood ethos, then perhaps he should give back the reported \$3.5 million that he was paid for the rights to a book that had not even been written. Having made his name on the back of the fame that Hollywood generates, he wants it both ways.

Natural Born Killers is a film whose notoriety has been created solely by those who rose in protest against it. For Oliver Stone, who has seen the worthlessness of killing in Vietnam, the conception of a film that glorifies mass murder does not seem likely. The FBI and other agencies have constantly denied that the film was responsible for copycat killings. The murder of Bill Savage was carried out by two people who obviously had a drugs problem, and it is about time that those who have a voice to communicate to the masses started to address real problems. The burden of responsibility lay with those who pulled the trigger, not with a film director. Hugh Spearling, Northfield Farm, Long Road, Comberton, Cambridge CB3 7DQ.

YET again the same examples of "links" between violence on screen and in society are raised: A Clockwork Orange, The Deer Hunter, Natural Born Killers. Constantly the films targeted by would-be censors are those that force the viewer to judge the events and characters against their own moral yardstick. Kids dare to protest young people having sex and taking drugs, but does not deem it necessary to include an authorial voice to judge for us. Similarly, *Natural Born Killers* asks us to realise that merely because the events of the film centre around two characters, it does not make them "good guys". If Oliver Stone made one mistake it was in thinking his audience could understand this.

It is too easy to allow films to be blamed for our failings. A choice of film and the reaction to it reflects what is already within the viewer. Shoak, to meet, is a neighbourly indictment of the Holocaust. To certain neo-Nazi elements, it is either fraudulent Zionist propaganda, or a record of a golden era. These opinions are formed by wider life experiences, not just a few hours of celluloid. Richard Whittaker, 81 Fourth Avenue, Heworth, York YO8 0UA.

An unruly class of ministers

No wonder: John Major does not learn from his mistakes

WHWHO says this Government believes in whole class learning? Take a look at what is going on in cabinet. It would make even the most enthusiastic supporter of Plowden principles to question the benefits of individuals working on their own. In one corner sits a penitent Health Secretary, ruefully acknowledging the damage which ministers wreaked by refusing to test their restructured health service through pilot schemes. Only last week a contrite Stephen Dorrell issued a new policy paper on primary care which included the resounding declaration that there would be no further across-the-board changes to the NHS until they had been properly assessed and tested through pilot programmes. Yet, across the room, his education colleague, circulated a memorandum to yesterday's cabinet meeting setting out various ways in which the Government's pilot schemes on nursery vouchers could be short-circuited so that the voters could be bribed with £1,100 hand-outs before, rather than after, the next election.

If the teacher in charge had any belief in consistency, he might at least insist on the children pinning up their work on the wall so such contradictions could be ironed out. In reality, of course, the contradictions are not the children's fault but the teacher's. It was John Major who last year over-ruled Gillian Shephard's objections to nursery vouchers and insisted she press ahead with the scheme. So in April four pilots began with the idea that all

parents of four-year-olds would be offered pre-election sweeteners next February. Then, this week, the plan was sabotaged by the Lords who passed an amendment which would oblige the Government to carry out a full evaluation of the four pilots at the end of their first year before introducing a national scheme. This would scupper the plan to make vouchers a vote-winning issue in the party's election manifesto. Hence Mrs Shephard's desperate memorandum, leaked to our Education Editor, and set out in yesterday's *Guardian*.

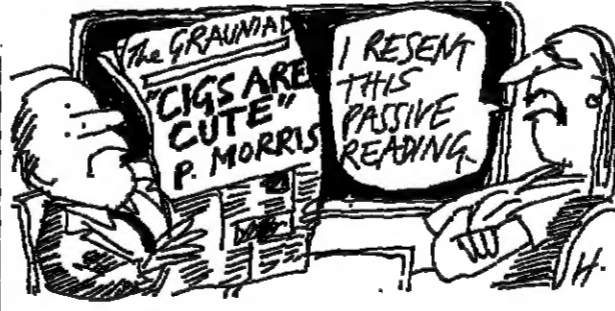
Mrs Shephard openly acknowledges in her memorandum the difficulty of overturning the Lords defeat in the Commons. And with good reason. A succession of Conservative MPs has questioned a scheme, which provides no extra capital for new places, no extra resources to train the necessary teachers, no extra cash for three-year-olds. The main beneficiaries of the Government's regressive scheme are the comfortably-off, already paying for their children, who will suddenly be provided with a voucher for £1,100, roughly equivalent to half the cost of a fulltime place. Worse still, the Audit Commission has already documented the huge waste in administrative costs of introducing an internal market within the NHS. The same principle will apply to nursery schools. It is bad enough when children refuse to learn, but teacher himself seems intent on closing his political eyes to the earlier errors of his party's administration.

Smoke signals

IAM astonished and saddened that the *Guardian* has chosen to take the Philip Morris passive-smoking ads (Letters, June 20). In doing so you are colluding in the tobacco industry's long-running campaign to acquire a bogus legitimacy for its activities.

The industry has known for decades that its products are lethal and highly addictive drug, its public stance, however, has been to proclaim the harmlessness of tobacco, and to question the overwhelming evidence of the carnage it causes. These specious debates create the misleading impression that there is some doubt about the damage done by tobacco — there isn't, it kills one in two smokers — and provide the industry with the morsel of respectability it needs to continue pushing its products.

The passive-smoking ads are just another phase in this campaign. It is shameful that the *Guardian* has sold its rep-



utation and good name to such a debased cause. Gerard B Hastings, Professor of Social Marketing, University of Strathclyde, 173 Cathedral Street, Glasgow G4 0RQ.

IN THE small print to a table, the company suggests second-hand-smoking is so relatively small that they cannot be regarded as statistically significant. As any statistician will tell you, statistical significance is not a measure of materiality, or ac-

ceptability. Psychological evidence has shown that the acceptability of risk varies dramatically with the extent to which the risk is voluntarily undertaken. Few people would take seriously the claim that the inhalation of second-hand smoke is an act freely undertaken, so the comparison with the eating of a banana and regard myself as left-wing and certainly in favour of women's rights. I acknowledge that I acted without fully understanding what I was doing and without being enabled to examine other, more creative options. Yet that aspect of abortion — of the famous "woman's right to choose" — is a pretty well-guarded secret because, when I read such articles as yours, I realise that the underlying argument is that only people who seek somehow to oppress women could oppose abortion and that the only sane, normal position is to champion so-called abortion rights.

I am tired of the unthinking and automatic assumptions about abortion. Will someone show me simply to say that I wish that I was today looking after my little boy or girl and not having to write this letter? Name & address supplied.

A couple for the record

YOUR Diary (June 14) reports that my views on future Labour might frame its future economic policy, published in the *New Statesman*, were "guided" by the hand of Tim Allen who works in the Labour leader's office.

May I put matters straight by explaining that I used Tim Allen's press contacts to direct my article to a publication which might consider using it. He faxed it on my behalf to a couple of newspapers before the *New Statesman* expressed interest. I might have been able to convince him that my experience as a "one-time mega militant mine picket supremo" contributed to my beliefs, highly centralised businesses are no more an answer to this country's economic problems than are state subsidies to clapped-out businesses or the construction of tariff barriers to ward off foreign competition. They result, inevitably, in sectors like coal being smashed under an avalanche of political rhetoric, manage-

rial torpor and workforce alienation instead of flourishing and improving in response to changing markets. (Dr) Kim Howells MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

YOUR article (Utilities cut edge, June 19) gives a misleading impression. In fact, in the lecture to which you refer, I stressed that one of the clearly beneficial developments in the UK over the last 10 years has been the productivity improvements that have come from utility privatisation. I also stressed that Britain's flexible labour market meant that we are creating the new jobs which offset the job losses resulting from productivity improvement.

I then said that other countries following the British path would have to balance privatisation of utilities with increased labour-market flexibility, otherwise they would end up only with the utility downsizing and without the new jobs.

J Adair Turner, Dir-General, Confederation of British Industry, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU.

Deep regret

IREPORT regarding your report on Guernsey's decision to legalise abortion (An island divided, June 19) have had an abortion and regret and suffer from that very deeply. I am not, at least in my own judgment, rabid, fanatical or mad; I belong to a church and I regard myself as left-wing and certainly in favour of women's rights. I acknowledge that I acted without fully understanding what I was doing and without being enabled to examine other, more creative options. Yet that aspect of abortion — of the famous "woman's right to choose" — is a pretty well-guarded secret because, when I read such articles as yours, I realise that the underlying argument is that only people who seek somehow to oppress women could oppose abortion and that the only sane, normal position is to champion so-called abortion rights.

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Flight of fancy on party lines

NIGEL Linford (Letters, June 20) tells of Turville, or Bramley End, enduring a bayoneted post-mistress and a shot vicar in the film *Went the Day Well*. May I remind him of the perils when the car in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* flew over the village. (Rev) Paul Nicolson, Vicar of Turville, The Vicarage, Turville, Henley-on-Thames RG9 6QU.

As a genuinely democratic party, you assure your opinions are immensely valuable to Labour. Interpreted according to the rules of English grammar, this must mean that Blair considers the party to consist of himself alone. Otherwise he cannot write a simple grammatical sentence, as he did and expose the ranting about educational standards as hypocrisy? Ian Birchall, 4 Toby Court, Tramway Avenue, London N9 8PG.

A Country Diary

COUNTY LONDONDERRY: the Bann is a mighty river. As it passes beneath the six-arched stone bridge at Killea (a fine spot for a road block, whilst we were there) it is already both wide and deep. By the time it reaches Coleraine four eights could be racing abreast on the dark peat-stained water. From Portneal Lodge, a fine new fishing base where I stayed for the first week in June, I walked the bank each morning to watch anxious mother moorhens shepherding their broods of up to eight fluffy chicks across the sunlit, swirling water of the river. On the links over which the 30th Black Bush Causeway Coast amateur golf tournament was held, the larks sang sweetly in the sunlit air. We were favoured by a fine week of Ulster sunshine. As one of my partners observed: "I have never known four days without rain here in 12 years of coming". That wasn't quite true because early morning starters would have been rained on, but this year we

had early afternoon tee times, by which time the odd rain clouds had scudded across to Scotland. The fine weather did little for my golf — it made the task of holding the ball on the half-acre greens of imperceptible borrows and subtle gradients even more difficult, as wind and sun speeded them up to baffling complexity. We started this year at Portstewart, from which there are fine views across Lough Foyle to Inishowen. Strand early bathers were risking the chilly waters. Our next outing was to Ballycastle — arguably the finest natural setting of the four courses of the tournament. Three miles offshore, Rathlin Island bathed in sunlight. A top highest peak three wind generators bore witness to the islanders' fight for an electricity supply. Beyond Rathlin the high bulk of the Mull of Kintyre stood out and, as the sun sank in the west, the mainland south of Ayr appeared low on the north-east horizon. COLIN LUCKHURST

A welcome shade of green

But will the new planning policy survive in the long-term?

AFTER all the ill-thought-out development projects which have sprung up on the edges of Britain's towns over the past two decades, blighting the civic life of communities which have watched their commerce drain away to the outskirts, it is hardly surprising that critics could muster only faint cheers for John Gummer's important change of planning policy yesterday.

If Mr Gummer's predecessors had not landed us with the centrifugal out-of-town problem in the first place, there would have been no need for the more centripetal town-centre-friendly policy which the Environment Secretary finally promulgated to MPs yesterday afternoon. Moreover, there is more than a hint of suspicion that one of the reasons why the new guidelines are now being introduced is that the first wave of out-of-town developers are quite content to see future competition discouraged. The new guidelines do not

constrain existing developments, and these will continue to attract substantial custom. As ever, business (and the consumer) is happy to have the best of both worlds.

In spite of all these grudging thoughts, Mr Gummer's new policy guidelines deserve to be welcomed. Nevertheless, there must be doubts about how effective these plans will really be. The guidance places the onus on local authorities to adopt a planned and sequential approach to development decisions. There is sense in that devolved approach, but local authorities are not always the best arbiters of their areas' needs, and much will continue to depend upon the policy at the centre. Mr Gummer has proved to be the greenest Conservative Environment Secretary, but sadly that is not saying much. What price the new policy if his successor is gripped by a more free market approach?

Handwritten signature and date: J. Adair Turner 21/6/96

John Major 150

Diary
Matthew Norman

A MASSIVE arrives from our old friend John Fraser, MA (Oxon), M Phil, Mr Fraser's innate modesty barely disguises the brilliant academic record which so perfectly qualifies him for his position in life — as Man Friday to Michael Winner's Crusoe. The letter concerns the vexed question of whether, talking on TV to Janet Street-Porter, Michael once said his mother "was suing me for 10 years". According to Mr Fraser, MA (Oxon), M Phil, he did not, but having watched a tape on Monday's Diary disagrees. It is not a matter in any way to be treated lightly, and Mr Fraser is wise to write at such length. The gist appears to be that, if persuaded of his error, "Michael would at least send you a letter of apology" (the framers are on standby), "and offer to pay any costs... and to make a donation to charity for your inconvenience" (in this case, we think, the Institute for Misanthropic Sperm Count and Jumbo Knives Research in Vienna). However, we have one further demand: Michael must treat the Diary to a lavish dinner, during which he will a) wave his napkin with inexplicable fury; b) blow "out-rageous" every 5 minutes, for no apparent reason; and c) address all who pass our table — staff or customers — with the words: "Do you know who I am?"

GATHER from a so-called rival that Tony O'Reilly, the Heineken tycoon with a large stake in the Independent, has failed to shake off his inner-ear infection; it has even forced him to miss Royal Ascot. When Dr O'Reilly was taken ill six months ago, rumours revolved around a stroke, but he later explained it was merely a ear problem — one he described, a shade curiously, as "probably a signal from the Almighty that it is time to review the lifestyle". A doctor, meanwhile, is surprised that the condition persists. "It's bizarre," says the doctor. "If treated, such an infection ought to clear up in a few weeks at most."

WITH England's quarter-final taking place at Wembley tomorrow, this, alas, is our last reading from Euro 96 Book of the Week, Biggles in Spain. The flying ace and his pals Algy and Ginger have smuggled vital secret papers back to England from under the very nose of General Franco. Don't ask how, for detail is unimportant. What matters is the message — that the English gave Johnny Tapas (not to mention the "spaghetti walkways" of Italy) a bloody nose. We move now to the final page of this soon-to-be published Red Fox paperback. "Biggles laughed. Then he became serious. "No, chaps," he said, as they walked slowly towards the exit, "it's just because any Britisher would do what we've done that the old Empire goes on."

GIVEN his fabled passion for the Lightning Seeds, whose song is the new English anthem, this is an especially emotional tournament for John Redwood. "I liked 4-1 as a scoreline against the Dutch," he says, "since 4-1 is the ratio of British people against a single currency." Ah, so you trust opinion polls, do you? Moving swiftly along, Mr Redwood says he will watch tomorrow's game at home, and will certainly shout at the screen when necessary, but is unlikely to leap from the sofa. Asked who should replace suspended Paul Ince in midfield, he becomes oddly reticent. "The manager must decide. He's the one who leads the team, and it's not for me... I interrupt. "Not for you to interfere with the workings of the leader?" Mr Redwood laughs, and we bid each other Good Day.

FINALLY, to tomorrow's other major event: Channel 4's Derek Thompson — TV's Thommo (45) — marries lovely Julie Corney in Bryn St Edmund's Church at 11.30am. Unaccountably, neither the Diary's invitation nor Steptoe's ever arrived, but the dogmatheless joins me in wishing them all the happiness in the world. Woof, woof, Thommo: woof, woof, Julie.



A slow train through no-man's-land

Commentary
Peter Preston

YOUR average Zyuganov voter doesn't seem much to write home about. He (or she) is poor and bewildered with an under-educated and old, past and a resentful fear of change. He wants the world to remember returned to its axis, back for his future. The western reporters he talks to are sometimes sympathetically stirred, but not shaken. This is last hurrah stuff, an exercise in nostalgia rather than the resurrection of ancient menace.

None of the newspapers those reporters work for would, I guess, go out of their way to recruit Zyuganov voters (or their local equivalents) as readers. Any cus-

tomers who plunk his pence on the newspapers' counter is welcome, of course; but some are more welcome than others. Advertisers, wretched in frenzied zeal, target educated professionals under 34, with jobs and disposable incomes ahead of them. Circulation managers worry about an age profile which has a disproportionate chunk of their readers expiring from natural causes each year. (If you are, say, the Daily Telegraph, then 45 per cent of the people who take you every day are over 55. An actuarial Everest.)

There are similar short-term answers to both dilemmas. Mr Zyuganov, had he managed to think of one, could have devised some instant offer to potential recruits which bought their votes regardless. (Alas, Boris seemed to have all of the best bribes.) And, similarly, newspapers can wallow in the modern game of fantasy price cutting for a while if they must. The long-term, though, is a terrible problem for papers, as for political parties. You change your base, over time, or slowly you wither and perish. Tony Blair

knows that. The real question, just a step behind beef's pantomime, is whether John Major knows it too.

There's been no more fascinating poll in recent days than Mori's semi-regular testing of the European water (for the Times). The simple proposition — staying in or getting out — produced a 5 point margin for staying, down only a couple from the last exercise in October 1993: nil sensation. But the detail below that headline finding would get any newspaper's management hopping if it were happening on their patch.

The cherished professional classes — AEs with an income over £25,000 — are Europe stickers by 35 percent. Those who are optimistic about Britain, those who claim to have faith in its economic future, are European by a 21 point margin. Ask the question on an age basis and young voters, those between 18 and 34, are pro-Europe by 30 per cent. The other end of the social scale inevitably produces quite different results. Old age pensioners want to get out by 48 per cent to 38. Un-

skilled workers favour quitting by 15 points. Those who are pessimistic about the future of Britain want out by 11 points. Women, on all these counts, are slightly more anti-European than men.

In small ways, such steers are not very surprising. Three years of tabloid battering were bound to change some readers' minds. People at the bottom of the heap naturally grow disenchanted with the status quo, including Europe, and pass the parcel of blame upwards, post-marked Brussels. But step back and the bigger picture produces one hugely surprising dislocation. Inevitably, along the withdrawal road, the Conservative Party seems to be pulling up its electoral roots and making a bonfire of its future.

IF the familiar chorus — from Cash to Redwood — is right, if rampant scepticism is the issue of today and tomorrow, then the party's pitch must change utterly. It cannot be the party of business and the professions. It cannot — in a bizarre reversal of the 80s — hope to be the party of the young or the optimistic or the ambitious. But nor, believing the other things it believes, can it remotely become the party of the underdog or the social cohesion.

This is no man's land; and no voter's land too. You can sense it already as membership contracts viciously. You can wonder whatever became of the Young Conservatives. You can hear the cries of alarm from the CBI, national fertilisers of Smith Square finance. The issue the discontents have chosen, the issue

that is giving John Major the bends, is the one that fractures the Tory coalition far beyond Westminster in quite disastrous ways.

Of course opinion polls only tell you what the public thinks, not what is right or wrong. Politicians chasing the vision thing must disagree and convert. But party machines are less individualist. They commission polls. They tap the national mood and the trends behind it. They tailor policies to echo that mood. They behave like businesses. If I were the research director of the Conservative and Unionist Party I would thus be close to despair, beating my head in a padded room. The Mori figures help write a perfect brief. Tony Blair read it in Bonn this week. My lot — unless they can infect the young and the ambitious with their own pessimism — are on a slow train to nowhere. They are opting to become the Daily Express of politics, an enterprise requiring profound change because its chosen constituency is old and grumpy resaped year by year.

Zyuganov only has one chance at power. Next time the memories of what went before will have faded further. No-one will even remember Stalin. Too many who rallied to the old flag will be buried six feet deep. Too many who might have joined the Communist Party when young will have come to see no point and no prospect. That's the trouble with change. You change, or you die. Where's the beef? Or, where's the sheep brain and sawdust?

Tony unwraps his vision of a better vision



Bel Littlejohn

LET'S forget the mumbo-jumbo and kick out the message of power. That's the message of Strange Days, presented by my colleague Ms Catherine Bennett. Cath (Aquarius through and through) has been arguing that we live in an age of unreason, an age of cults and fads and superstitions. She says it's high time we all pulled ourselves together and behaved like rational human beings. Agreed. 'Cos for one thing, if we don't live like rational human beings, we'll never ascend to a higher plane in the life to come, and thus the transmigrating of souls could be jeopardised forever: just as Nostradamus predicted.

Believe me, politics is about the here and now, and those of us who are passionate about getting Tony Blair's New Labour into power can't afford to be blown off track by irrational beliefs. That's why Tony's appointed people with their feet well and truly on the ground to the most senior positions in New Labour — three Tauruses, one Libra and two Aries, at the last count, making a confident yet imaginative mixture which bodes very well for the future, particularly if one takes the Islington magnetic fields into account.

Last week's meeting of the New Labour steering committee was all about practicalities: tough decisions for tough times. We sat around the table in Tony's office, whilst the lovely Peter Mandelson (typical Gemini, incidentally) hovered dutifully with the tea and biccies. Top of the agenda was Tony's vision of a Stakeholder Society.

"It's a tremendous vision, absolutely tremendous," I said to Tony. "And I'd love to know exactly where you were when you first saw it. Was it in the West Country at all? Glastonbury, Wells, Salisbury Plain — that sort of area?"

Tony tilted his head to one side, which I strongly intuited to be a firm yes from his spirit guide. He then spoke of the Stakeholder Society with real passion. Nobody could prove it was there, he said, because so far it isn't, but that doesn't mean it won't ever be, because it will be if we all believe in it strongly enough.

"But can we be clear exactly what this vision consists of?" said the smashing Robin Cook — typical Scorpio sceptic, bless him.

"It's a vision of a new tomorrow. A vision of a society in which every man, woman and child shares a vision of

a society in which every man, woman and child shares a — now where was I?" replied Tony.

Jack Straw, busy giving his specs the once-over with the baby-wipes, came to the rescue. "You were saying, Tony. That it is a society in which each and every one of us would be held legally responsible for keeping our own car windcreens clean — thus cutting out those wretched squeegee merchants at the root of their evil monopoly."

"And you were going on to say that we must extend the frontiers of what I call 'caring capitalism'," added Peter, circulating with his tray. "Take Ron and Ethel, for instance. Ron, 45, is a Pisces and he's been married to Ethel, 43, who is a Taurus, for 20 years. Under the Tories, their chain sawn furniture shops has been greatly reduced under New Labour's plans for a Stakeholder Economy. Ron and Ethel's garden machinery flourishes, so much so that they can employ four new managers and a workforce of 15. And incidentally Ron will then be able to expand into the sunken-garden business, which he learnt from his time in a previous life tending the hanging gardens of the lost city of Atlantis."

"Great!" said Tony, wrapping up Item One. Then he moved his hand down the agenda — those hands whose palm clearly states he's shortly be moving to a location strongly associated with the number "10" — and announced, "Europe!"

WE in New Labour love Europe. I'm a woman first and foremost, but after that I'm a European. English? No way. I regard myself as much Portuguese as I do English, though I've never been to Portugal and can't speak the language, and frankly once you know what I know about harmful rays, you're best off out of the sun, particularly with all these Portuguese men leering at you, ready to steal your purse, thank you very much. But we must learn to knock down barriers and make it clear that our future lies right at the very heart of Europe, here in London.

In Europe, we will be sure to find the happiness and prosperity for which our souls have been pining for so long. Not only will we be able to trade from a stronger position, but our hopes and dreams for the new millennium will all come true, and proper funding for a long-awaited centrally funded European UFO research station will at last be forthcoming. Personally, I want it to be called The Margaret Beckett UFO Research Station, as a fitting memorial to the lady who hasn't been seen in New Labour for over a year. Rumour has it she spontaneously combusted last June, but Peter says it's all down to the transmigrating of Hard Left souls. "Nuff said."

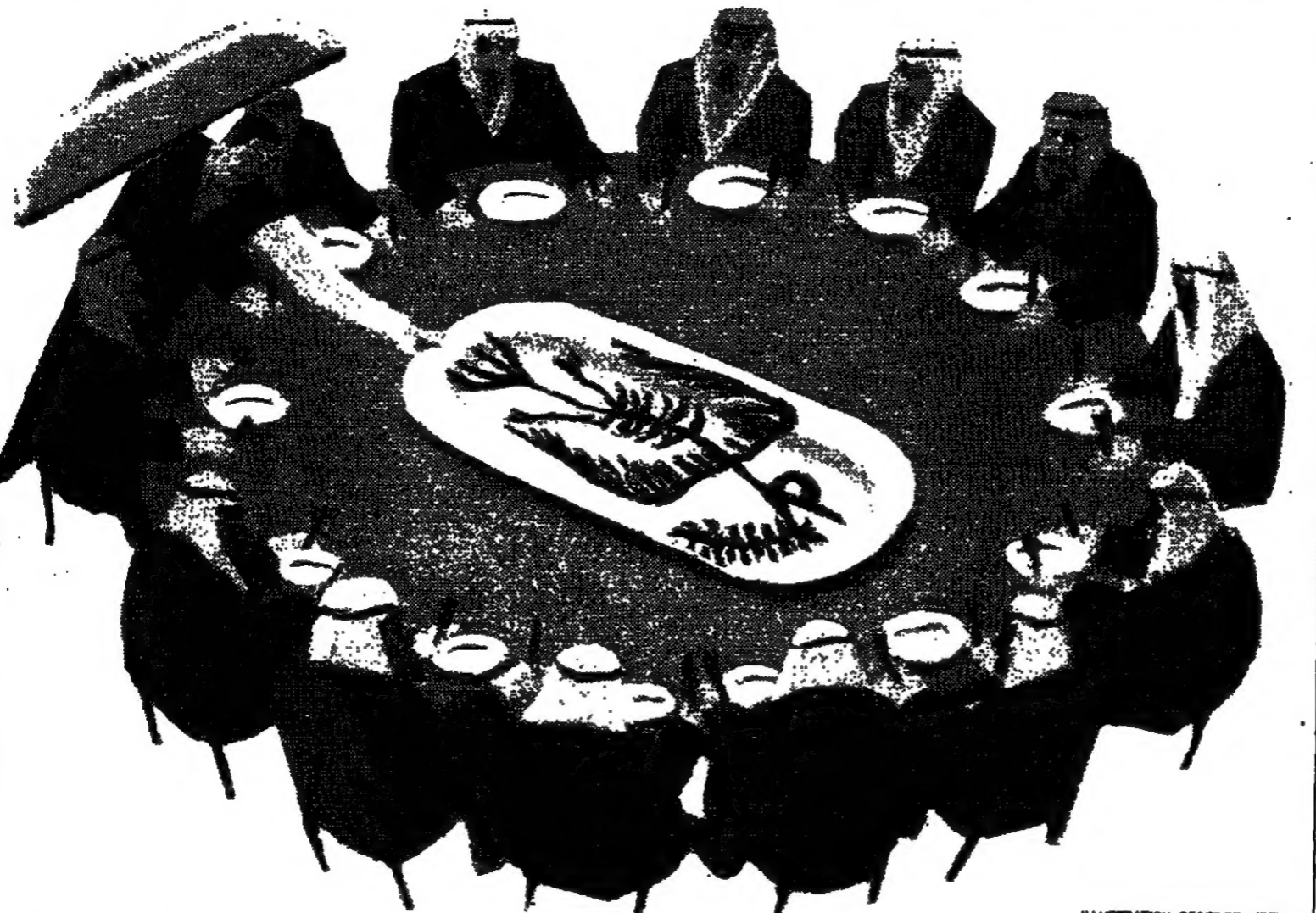


ILLUSTRATION: GEOFF GRANDFIELD

Pains but no gains

As Arab leaders gather in Cairo, David Hirst argues that the history of previous summits bodes ill for a lasting peace in the Middle East

THE remarkable thing about tomorrow's Arab summit is that it is taking place at all. It is not a "plenary" meeting, because Saddam Hussein has not been invited, but, that key exception aside, it is the largest and most exalted such gathering of the 21 member states of the Arab League in six years. The Israeli elections did it. In "a homage to Bibi Netanyahu", Cairo's Akhbar al-Yaum newspaper said: "Without our victory we couldn't even have dreamt of Arab reconciliation." His reforms "yes" to peace has been wholly outweighed, in Arab eyes, by his resounding "no" to a Palestinian state, a sharing of Jerusalem or concessions on the Golan. So the three "central" Arab powers, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria, called the summit in the belief that only by a closing of shattered Arab ranks can Israel be forced back to the path of "just and comprehensive peace".

Summits are the highest and broadest expression of the collective Arab will. There are "ordinary" ones and "emergency" ones. From the outset it was almost always the more or less permanent emergency of Palestine that prompted them. Egypt's King Farouk hosted the first, 50 years ago last month. That was before Israel came into being. The assembled leaders decided that it never should, and took military action to stop it. But in 1948 the new-born Jewish state came out of the first Arab-Israeli war much larger than

secreted this also decreed that it should be achieved "within the principles of no peace with Israel, no recognition, and no negotiation".

After the war of October 1973, the Arab leaders — Algeria, 1973, Rabat, 1974 — put forward their ideas of a "just and comprehensive peace". It was a further lowering of goals — but there were secret understandings that no Arab state would go it alone in a separate peace.

With Camp David, in 1978, President Sadat did just that. Thereafter, summits were less about the recuperation of Palestine than of Egypt, the "great power" of the Arab world deemed to have opted out of it altogether. The Baghdad summits of 1978 and 1979 first threatened, then enforced, Egypt's expulsion from the Arab League.

THE Baghdad coalition fell apart, and with Iraq at war with Iran, a summit took place which, for the first time, had nothing to do with Palestine. In Amman, 1980, the leaders decided that Iran, not Israel, was now the clear and present danger to the "Arab Nation". Or, rather, some leaders did, for others strenuously disagreed. Along with the ostracised Sadat, President Assad of Syria and PLO Chairman Arafat didn't even attend. Palestine was back on the agenda — Fez, 1981 and 1982 — with a new, more moderate Arab "peace plan". The Iranian peril was back in Amman, 1987. But with their Intifada, the Palestinians forced renewed attention to their cause in Algiers, 1988. At Casablanca, 1989 — at which the only "emergency" one — the Arab leaders showed that characteristic readiness to accept what they had formerly abhorred by re-admitting Egypt to the summit fold. It was back once

more, to Palestine at Baghdad, May 1990. The "emergency" this time, was the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. The Arab League called this "the biggest disaster" since 1948.

By this time Arab public opinion was so sceptical of summits that, before the leaders assembled, one commentator forecast that "they will make fiery speeches, hold banquets, huddle in bilateral meetings, kiss and hug, and head for home; days will pass and we shall learn the bitter truth: the party is over and nothing has been done".

It was worse than that. Three months after kissing the Sheikh of Kuwait goodbye, Saddam invaded his country. At the next, last, and chaotic summit — Cairo, August 1990 — the Arab world agreed, in effect, to make war against another part. Summits had come to consecrate the opposite of what it should: the inevitability of Arab division.

The logical outcome of Arab civil war should have been the removal of the Arab ruler whose monstrous lese-majesté provoked it. But Saddam survived, and the Arabs sank to a new low of weakness, dissension, subordination to foreigners — and inability to resist another, US-imposed, phase of Arab-Israeli peacemaking on less favourable terms than before. The "front-line" states and the PLO went to Madrid — November 1991 — and their first direct negotiations with their historic foe.

Now, at long last, the Arab leaders are going a-summitting again. Well they might, because the new "emergency" springs from a context which, last time, still lay beyond their worst imaginings. Forget the Russian immigrants in Baghdad, 1990; these are now so integral a part of the Israeli scene that they played a decisive part in the formation of the Netanyahu cabi-

net. Forget, even, the separate deals, weak and submissive, which Arafat and King Hussein have made with the Israelis.

The real issue now is that, profiting from the Arabs' disintegration, their rush to deal and "normalise", the Israelis are shifting the "peace process" to a whole new basis — juridical, diplomatic, strategic — that reflects what they, at least, perceive as a whole new balance of power. They have replaced "land-for-peace", the basis of Madrid, with "peace-for-peace" — that is, peace without the return of occupied territory. It began under Prime Ministers Rabin and Peres, with the acquiescence or connivance of the most pro-Israeli US administration ever. Netanyahu merely builds on, and openly trumpets, what Labour surreptitiously pioneered.

For all Israel's worries about a new Arab "militancy", and US urgings that Netanyahu should not be prejudged, it is, historically speaking, in a spirit of unprecedented meekness that Arab leaders assembled. Arab leaders' goals are, a successful summit — a real display of Arab solidarity and firmness — would nonetheless give Israel and the US serious food for thought. It would even impress an Arab public everywhere apt to see in their rulers' failings over Palestine the most obvious, common yardstick of their unfitness to rule at all.

But 50 years of summitry augurs ill for such an outcome. What lies beyond failure, this time, ranges from submission to a new Israeli diktat or the total collapse of the peace process, two extremes whose consequences would be incalculable, yet alarming enough to have induced the kings and presidents to come together and consider them. And that, of itself, is something neither Israelis nor Americans wanted or expected.

New Statesman

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David Mourão-Ferreira

Poet with a passion

AS WITH many 20th century Portuguese intellectuals, the work of Ferreira, who has died aged 69, was inseparable from a political commitment to overthrow the Salazar dictatorship.



Ferreira... sensuality

Secreta Viagem (The Secret Journey). That year he co-founded Tavola Redonda literary magazine, to oppose socialist realism associated with writers from the banned Portuguese Communist Party.

instated after the ancient dictator Antonio de Oliveira Salazar's death in 1970. But in the late 1960s Ferreira was the first of his generation elected to the Academy of Sciences, and his arrival heralded the sense of freedom that led to the April 1974 revolution.

He was a prolific poet and essayist and an influential teacher but only in 1986 did he publish his first novel, Um Amor Feliz, which became a prize-winning best-seller.

David Mourão-Ferreira, born February 24, 1927; died June 16, 1996

Walter Pardon

Soul 'n' soil singer



Pardon... drawing in listeners as if by enchantment

WALTER PARDON, who has died aged 82, was a Norfolk carpenter who came widely known in the 1970s as an exceptional traditional singer.

Pardon had songs with a hard edge but his approach was predominantly quiet, even introspective. It is remarkable that until the age of 61 he sang to little more than a family gathering, then flourished for more than a decade in folk clubs and folk festivals.

Pat Mackenzie and Jim Carroll write: Walter Pardon was the last of the East Anglian singers, the last and best of England's traditional singers. His death leaves an untillable void.

Walter Pardon, carpenter and traditional singer, born 1914; died June 9 1996



Alizadeh... a fascination with death but carving a space for the voice of women

Qazaleh Alizadeh

A fragment of light in the darkness

QAZALEH Alizadeh, of expression and the problems facing Iranian authors in general — and women writers in particular.

Alizadeh's Parisian recollections centred on a fascination with philosophy and poetry — and death. She visited the grave of Sadeq Hedayat, the Iranian author who committed suicide in Paris, and remembered finding Proust's "dark forgotten gravestone."

Alizadeh was the only child of a privileged family. Her first stories were published when she was 20 and echoed a back-to-nature western romantic style, which sought to abandon industrialised, polluted cities.

Edrissha (The Idriss's House) a character (notes that Calliph Abdolrahman knew happiness for only 14 days. The author observed that she had not even managed that.

family living through Soviet communism, a critique of these ideologies that once id power, govern every detail of existence. She writes about lives in which every action is dictated by an immutable absolutism that creates totally dependent people, meticulously organised and observed, devoid of free will, emotionally annihilated.

Qazaleh Alizadeh, writer, born February 1948; died May 14, 1996

Jean Sinclair

The loud silence of protest

WITHIN hours of his release from prison in 1990, Nelson Mandela paid tribute to several organisations which had fought against apartheid. One of them was the Black Sash movement.

action. In protest against the manipulation of the constitution, Sinclair and a handful of other middle-class white women — they never worked to recruit black members — living in the Johannesburg suburbs formed the Women's Defence of the Constitution League in 1955.

S CORNFUL of the teardrinking, bridge-playing set in the affluent white suburbs, she was driven, however, by a belief in decency and fairness, rather than a commitment to any kind of revolutionary ethics.

new Progressive Party but again lost — although by fewer than one hundred votes.

Birthdays

Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, 48; Christopher Brown, director, NSFC, 66; David Bull, director, Amnesty International, 68; 45; Ray Davies, rock singer, 52; Wally Hawkes, cartoonist, 72; John Goodnam, actor, 44; Gerald Kaufman, Labour MP, 86; Anne Kirkbride, actress, 42; Ian McKean, novelist, 48; Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Foreign Secretary, 50; Jane Russell, actress, 76; Maurice Scatchell, advertising mogul, 50; Françoise Sagan, writer, 61; Prince William of Wales, 14.

Death Notices

OLCHWIST, Doreen. Died peacefully in her beloved Edinburgh on the 20th June, 1996, aged 96. Sadly missed by daughter Joan and grandson Peter and Graham. Service to take place on Monday 26th June at 11am at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 111a Glasgow Road, Southport. 07542 212 590.

In Memoriam

WYNHAM-KAYE, A Memorial Service for the life of the late Mrs Jane Wynham-Kaye will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 111a Glasgow Road, Southport on Monday 26th June at 11am. Please contact Mrs Wynham-Kaye on 07542 212 590.

Jackdaw



Picked career

GUIDE to lock picking Contents: How a key opens a lock; The standard model; Basic picking and the binding defect; Basic scribbing; Advanced lock picking; Exercises; Projecting; Recognizing and exploiting personality traits

1. Which way to turn; 2. How far to turn; 3. Gravity; 4. Pins; 5. Elastic deformation; 6. Loose plug; 7. Pin diameter; 8. Beveled holes and rounded pins; 9. Tools; 10. Legal issues

same to be adapted and designed for the purpose before said, with intent to use or employ or allow the same to be used or employed for such purpose, or whoever knowingly has in his possession a master key designed to fit more than one motor vehicle, with intent to use or employ the same to steal a motor vehicle or other property therefrom, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than ten years or by a fine of not more than two thousand dollars and imprisonment in jail for not more than two years.

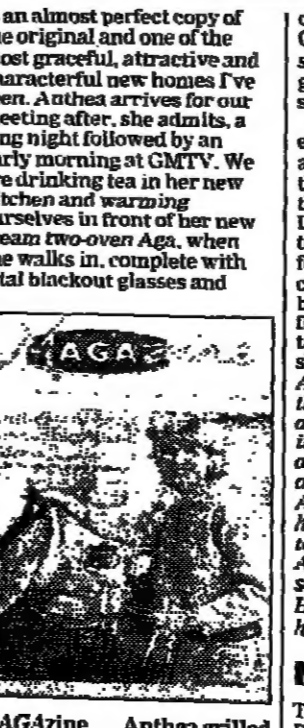
Cow power

DEAD cattle, victims of the Government's programme to eradicate BSE, could soon be fuelling the nation's power stations, PowerGen, the country's second largest power generator, is to test how well meat and bone meal from slaughtered cattle burns at a test rig attached to its Ratcliffe power station in Nottinghamshire.

something might be saved from the slaughter of cattle in Britain.

Anthea's Aga

BUT, surprisingly, it isn't hard to imagine Anthea holding them in to and feeding them in the airy green kitchen, drying romper suits on the Aga... "And the kitchen is the heart of it really. We wanted the kitchen to be somewhere that had an all-purpose table and everyone seems to lean on the aga," says Anthea... "I even own a hostess trolley," she whispered, blushing. "I am proud of this because I searched high and low for one which is not in teak and hideous. I found one in the Harrods sale."



MAGazine... Anthea grilled

is an almost perfect copy of the original and one of the most graceful, attractive and characterful new homes I've seen. Anthea arrives for our meeting after, she admits, a long night followed by an early morning at GMTV. We are drinking tea in her new kitchen and warming ourselves in front of her new cream two-oven Aga, when she walks in, complete with total blackout glasses and carrying a suit bag with Bruce Oldfield written in gold on the side.

The Band Formerly Known as Sausage Chickens on Smack Christ on a Crutch Crookle Mould and the Squiggles Jif and the Choosy Mothers Gaye Bikers on Acid Hard Drinkin' Housewives Hindu Garage Sale Jesus Christ and the Narnockers Leshlan Dopeheads on Mopeds Men Among Poodles New Squids on the Dock Noodle Muffin and the Pig Squirts Rump Rangers Roid Rogers and the Whirling Butt Cherries Question Mark and the Mysterians

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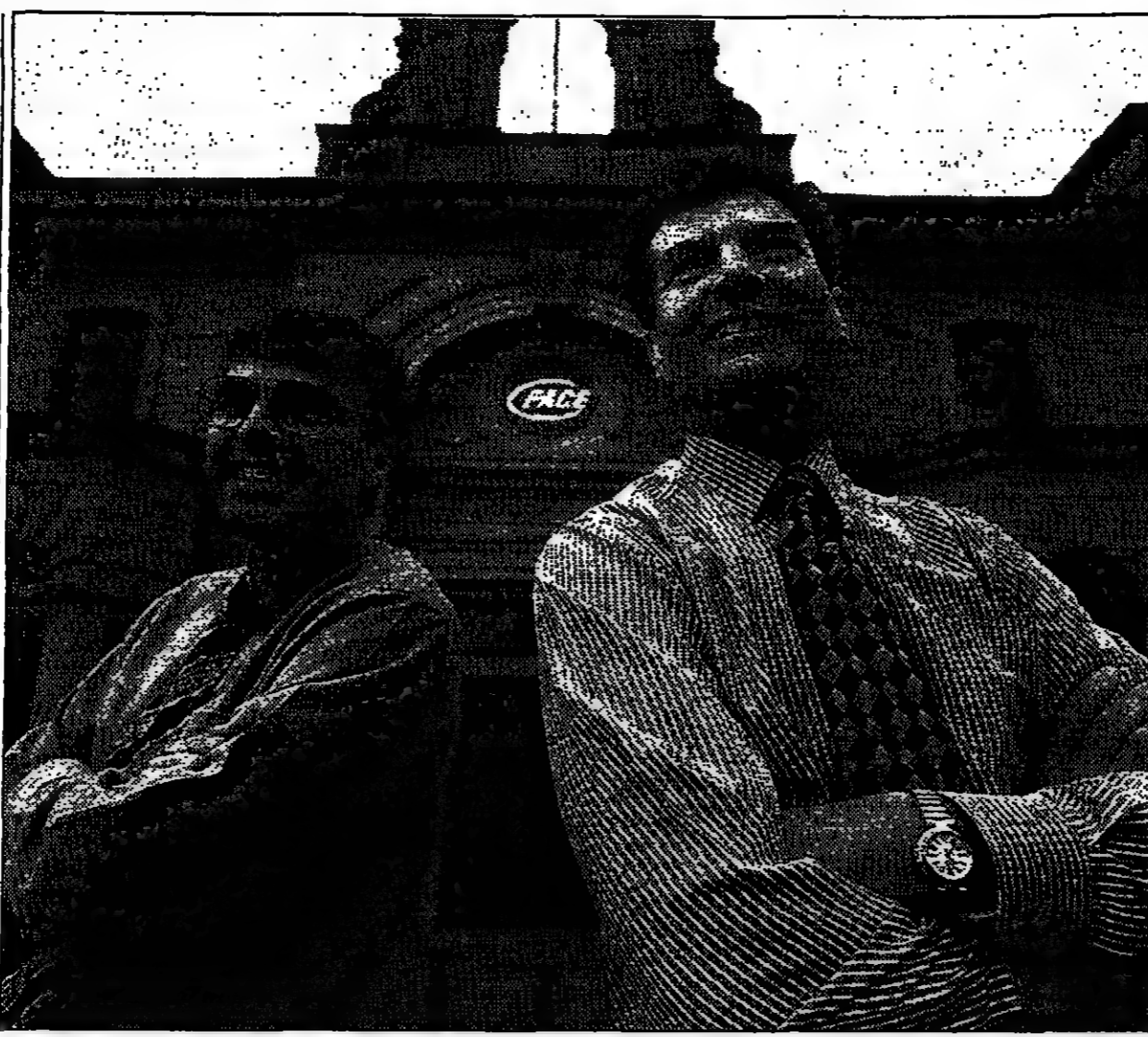
Finance Guardian

Pace Micro provides cracking day for its founders

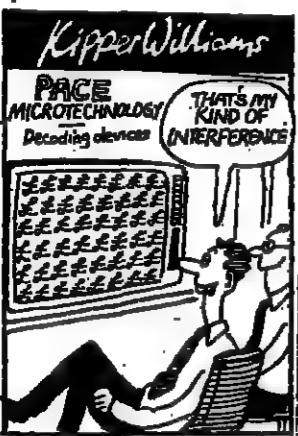
Ian King

DAVID Hood and Barry Rubery yesterday became two of Britain's wealthiest entrepreneurs when their hi-tech company blasted on to the stock market, prompting a scramble for shares. As part of the flotation, Mr Hood and Mr Rubery, the co-founders and joint chief executives, picked up cash windfalls of £100 million and £50 million. The pair have retained stakes in the company worth £116 million and £48 million apiece. Shares in their firm Pace Micro Technology, which is a world leader in cable and satellite television receivers and decoders, raced to 199p, against the 172p at which the shares had been placed with City institutions, valuing the group at just over £400 million. Founded in 1982 from 48-year-old Mr Hood's bed-

room, Pace has benefited from the explosive worldwide growth in satellite and cable television, and is poised to cash in on the growing demand for digital television. Based in an old woollens factory in Saltaire, west Yorkshire — built by the Victorian Bradford-based industrialist Sir Titus Salt — Pace shares the premises with a gallery of paintings by David Hockney. Mr Hood — who collected an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List last weekend — met Mr Rubery 20 years ago. They originally ran the company as a small order computer software business, but switched to making modems in 1985, before launching its first satellite decoder in 1990. Last year, the pair turned down an offer from America's Texas Instruments, and yesterday their patience appeared to have been rewarded. Meanwhile, two London-based entrepreneurs were last night toasting the flotation of their business, City Technology. Shares of City Technology, which designs and produces gas detection equipment, closed at 316p, against the 175p at which they were placed with institutions, valuing the group at around £100 million. That leaves the founder and managing director, John Flubow, a stake worth £8.6 million in the business, while his fellow chemist and technical director, Dr Brian Hobbs's, was worth just over £5 million.



Backs to the future... David Hood, left, and Barry Rubery celebrate an auspicious debut. PHOTOGRAPH: JOAN RUSSELL



Kipper Williams cartoon: 'Pace Micro Technology: Decoding devices. That's my kind of interference.'

Notebook

Danger signals appear on M4



Edited by Alex Brummer

FOR many homeowners drawn into the housing market in the 1980s by Mrs Thatcher's dream of a property-owning democracy, the May building society and bank lending figures will come as an enormous relief. In effect, they are the first chink of light in a housing market beset by recession, the near-elimination of mortgage tax relief and the huge overhang of negative equity. Even though property and housing — after seven years in the doldrums — may no longer be considered the great hedge against inflation, there are enough factors in favour of recovery for that prospect to re-emerge. Mortgage rates are, for most homeowners, at their lowest level in 30 years, reflecting the moderate inflation performance. Unemployment, while still above the two million level, has been falling and income tax levels started downwards again in April. All of this has combined to produce the surge in mortgage lending and approvals, as well as new estimates from the Halifax suggesting prices could rise by as much as 5 per cent this year. Given the overall fall in house prices in recent years, down by more than 25 per cent in some areas of the country, the increase can hardly be regarded as a danger signal, in that there is so much slack to be taken up. It is a truism, however, that the greatest danger in the UK economic cycle comes towards the end of the upswing, when the industrial/export sector is exhausted, and housing and the consumer sector start to take off. It was after the Lawson tax and interest rate cuts of 1987 that the housing boom of the 1980s reached its apogee. Clearly, Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, who has been nudging interest rates down despite some caution from the Governor of the Bank of England, has reason to be pleased. The only chance the Conservatives have of overhauling Labour is if the "feel good" factor can be created between now and the election — all the better if it can be done without expensive tax cuts of the kind eschewed by Mr Clarke. More cautious voices in the financial community will, however, be watching events with trepidation. The broader measure of the money supply, M4, is still growing at a heady 10 per cent year on year. Even if the figures are distorted by the new gilt repo market, that does not explain the excess. The build-up of monetary assets can be taken as a signal of an inflation surge 18 months to two years ahead, a time frame which will be some cause for pause on Threadneedle Street, which

knows that its reputation, credibility and future are on the line.

Labour dispute

THE Labour Party has moved a long way in defining what it describes as the "stakeholder economy" since Tony Blair raised the issue in his Singapore speech early this year. Much of this work on the corporate front has fallen to Stuart Bell, MP, who as corporate affairs spokesman has the job of shadowing the Department of Trade and Industry. Mr Bell has become a firm believer in corporate governance and believes institutional shareholders need to take a long-term view of British industry. He proposes "codes of conduct", similar to the Greenbury proposals, under which companies would be required to follow guidelines on dealing with all stakeholders, from suppliers to environmental interests. Adherence to these would, in part, be monitored by the upper supervisory levels of two-tier boards, which would be made up of outside experts as well as traditional non-executives. It is Mr Bell's view that implementation of such ideas will require an overhaul of the Companies Acts, with the aim of broadening the remit so that all stakeholders in the firm are pulling more or less in the same direction. As part of this reform, Mr Bell and some others in New Labour favour taking enforcement responsibility away from the DTI and investing in a Companies/Corporate Commission, which would be more or less independent of government. It makes no sense, Mr Bell argues, for the DTI to be investigating a public figure such as Lord Archer, when its motivations are likely to be questioned.

So far so good, except that Mr Bell's concept of a Companies Commission appears to clash with the Gordon Brown/Alastair Darling view of an all-powerful Securities and Investments Board — under the authority of the Treasury — which would be responsible for all financial/corporate enforcement activity. As yet, this out-of-government turf dispute remains unresolved. However, it would appear to make some sense for those responsible for trade and industry to remain involved in its regulation.

SOUTH EAST: As far as the City is concerned, Scottish Power has delivered a knockout punch with its £1.7 billion bid for Southern Water and can consider itself well on the way to joining the ranks of Britain's super-utilities. But it may not be out of the woods yet. The unexpectedly high price being paid suggests it will have to squeeze costs at Southern Water; this will not please employees or consumers in swathes of the Conservatives' south-eastern heartland. Like earlier generator bids for distributors, this deal may yet be blocked.

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Stronger home market eases demand woe of manufacturers

Sarah Pyle

RECOVERY in domestic demand is easing the pressure on hard-pressed manufacturers, according to the Confederation of British Industry's latest snapshot of industrial activity, published today. Although firms report lower-than-average orders, the balance of manufacturers experiencing weak demand is smaller this month than last. The CBI's belief that the improvement was mainly due to the strengthening home market was supported by mortgage lending figures yesterday from banks and building societies. Industry, which fell into official recession earlier this year, has made a sluggish response to Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's recent interest rate cuts. According to the CBI's

monthly survey of industrial trends, order books have been below normal since September last year. Persistent weakness in overseas demand is blamed for sluggish export order books, reported to be at their lowest levels since February 1994. Expectations for the future are also uncertain, with the smallest balance of firms so far this year predicting an upturn.

Sudhir Junankar, the CBI's associate director of economic analysis, said: "Our latest survey shows that manufacturing demand continues to languish in the doldrums. However, order books are now not as much below normal as they were in April and May, due to an improvement in domestic demand. The revival in the home market has helped to offset the fall in exports due to weak growth in our key European markets."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Australia 1,894.0 | France 7.70 | Italy 2,517 | Singapore 2.11 |
| Austria 16.02 | Germany 2,275.0 | Malta 0.945 | South Africa 8.52 |
| Belgium 46.78 | Greece 353.00 | Netherlands 2,555.0 | Spain 191.75 |
| Canada 2,527.5 | Hong Kong 11.63 | New Zealand 2.21 | Sweden 10.05 |
| Cyprus 0.70 | India 53.2 | Norway 9.20 | Switzerland 1,980 |
| Denmark 8.21 | Ireland 0.9425 | Portugal 235.00 | Turkey 119,504 |
| Finland 7.06 | Israel 5.03 | Saudi Arabia 5.75 | USA 1,925.0 |

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

Clarke's lesson for Europe

The OECD says the Chancellor is showing Europe the way with interest rate cuts, Richard Thomas reports

KENNETH Clarke's reservoir of luck seems bottomless. The Chancellor's decision to cut interest rates a fortnight ago — which wrong-footed the entire financial community — has been vindicated by all the economic data since, with inflation falling, manufacturing still sickly and the high street boom easing. Yesterday, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the ultra-orthodox think-tank, told the rest of Europe to take a leaf from Mr Clarke's book and ease monetary policy in order to stoke up growth and offer some hope to the Continent's 20 million jobless. The crippling level of unemployment in both Germany and France — which has already provoked widespread industrial unrest — is the result of both tough curbs on public spending and high interest rates associated with membership of the European exchange rate mechanism, according to the OECD. In its latest biannual Economic Outlook, the Paris-based think-tank urges continental European countries to press home their attack on public sector debt. But the report warns that unless there is some associated monetary policy easing, efforts to hit the Maastricht hurdle of 3 per cent public sector debt could result in even longer dole queues. "In a situation where there is significant slack in output

and labour markets and a pressing need for fiscal consolidation... judicious use of monetary easing could help to raise output and employment without generating inflationary pressures," the OECD says. Ahead of the annual summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations in Lyons next week, it calls on the Bundesbank to lead Europe into a new era of cheap money. "In Germany and those ERM countries where monetary policy credibility is strongest, there is scope for

The OECD thinks inflation in the 29 leading industrial economies will remain at the 2 per cent mark

more flexible operation of monetary policy," the Outlook states. Reforms to labour markets, cutting the costs of employment and legislation protecting employment — led by Britain — should allow financial authorities to trim interest rates more aggressively without igniting a wage-price spiral. The OECD estimates that inflation in the 29 leading industrial economies will remain at the 2 per cent mark for the next two years. In Britain, the rate of price

increases will stabilise just above 2 per cent for the remainder of 1996 and the whole of 1997, according to the OECD analysis. Although strengthening consumer spending in the latter half of this year and through 1997 will underpin GDP growth of 2.5 per cent for 1996 year and 3 per cent next year, stock-laden manufacturers will keep the lid on prices, the Outlook predicts. The UK's dole queue will remain fairly static for the remainder of this year the OECD forecasts, but will then continue its downward trend towards 2 million during the course of 1997. Treasury officials seized on the upbeat forecasts — which the OECD linked to the sterling's election from the exchange rate mechanism in September 1992 — to portray the UK as the nation leading Europe out of recession. "We have already enjoyed the strongest recovery since 1992," said Treasury secretary Angela Knight. "Now the OECD's latest forecasts put UK growth comfortably ahead of Germany, France and Italy in 1996 and 1997 as well." But the OECD cautions that the weakness of demand from Europe, combined with plentiful stocks in factory store-rooms could keep the lid on factory activity, and pose a threat to its rosy forecasts for the UK economy. Mr Clarke knows the risks and used his Mansion House speech to prepare the ground for a downward revision of his Budget prediction of 3 per cent growth this year. And the Chancellor's record of lucky breaks is now so well-established that the financial markets will probably congratulate, rather than berate, him.



Beating the drum... unrest in Europe could deepen. PHOTOGRAPH: PASCAL ROSSIGNOL

Scottish bid for Southern leaves rival stranded

SCOTTISH Power, the acquisitive electricity company rapidly turning itself into a super-utility, appeared to have pulled off its latest expansionary move yesterday when it beat Southern Electric in the race to take control of Southern Water. Southern Electric immediately ran up the white flag when Scottish Power, which has already taken control of the north-western electricity group Manweb, announced its £10.50p-per-share offer, valuing Southern Water at £1.69 billion. Although the Scottish group had described the offer as final, it was prepared to increase the bid by 50p per share to see off any rival offering. Southern Electric — whose expansion plans have been

thwarted at every turn — threw in the towel, however, insisting that its £1.6 billion offer was full and fair, and it "simply wasn't prepared to overpay" for Southern Water. Directors of the water company are expected to meet the board of Scottish Power today before announcing whether to recommend the bid. If suc-

cessful, Scottish Power will be the first utility to offer services spanning power generation, electricity supply, gas, water and telephones. To help fund the bid, Scottish Power is to make a cash call, pitched at 25p a share, to raise £598 million. Shareholders are being offered one new share for every four held.

NORTHERN Electric, the first regional electricity company, to receive a bid but one of the few to retain its independence, yesterday avoided a collapse in its share price when it promised to maintain promised special payouts to shareholders, writes Simon Beavis. Despite a worse-than-ex-

pected fall in profits, the company said it planned to pay a special dividend early next year and would try to lift annual pay-outs by an average 7 per cent until the turn of the century. The pledge was sufficient to lift the share price by 4p to 544p, despite pre-tax profits tumbling from £140.7 million to

£117.2 million before exceptional items. A windfall from the sale of the group's stake in the National Grid lifted the pre-tax figure to £150.8 million, however. Northern promised shareholders a £500 million package of sweeteners to fend off a hostile bid from Trafalgar House. Analysts were agreed, however, that it could have a tough time justifying the price it has paid for entry into the water sector with a bid which is fatter than any previous offer for a water or regional electricity company. Some observers suggested that the company might make huge cuts in staff and other

areas to save £40 million. But others pointed out that it had achieved only £68 million of savings at Manweb, where synergies were more obvious. Chairman Murray Stuart insisted that the takeover was part of a "focused strategy" and added: "Our highly successful integration of Manweb proves that our management team has the expertise to reduce costs, improve efficiency and grow revenues." Directors said that the takeover would allow the company to take full advantage of the opening of the domestic gas and electricity markets in 1998, with direct access to 1.8 million water customers on top of its 3.1 million electricity customers. The company would also be well placed to bid for £1 billion of sewerage treatment projects expected in Scotland over the next 10

years as part of the Private Finance Initiative. The move leaves Southern Electric, the biggest independent regional electricity company, in a hole, having twice had friendly mergers — one with National Power and the other with its neighbouring water company — blocked. Some observers believe it is likely to make a bid for another water firm, possibly Wessex, or another REC, with Northern Electric seen as the prime target. The decision to abandon the Southern Water bid came in a brief stock market state-ment from the board. Directors said that the latest offer from Scottish Power was at a 54 per cent premium to the water company's share price before hostilities began and added that they could not believe rivaling that bid would offer "genuine value for shareholders".

ROYAL ASCOT

Perfume smells of success

Chris Hawkins

GREEN PERFUME. Once thought likely to be the classic material...

A headstrong nature has always prevented him from fulfilling his potential...

There is a tip for Double Bounce, whose trainer, Peter Makin...

The card opens with the Windsor Castle Stakes in which Taufan Rookie (2.30) can give Richard Hannon a first success in the race...

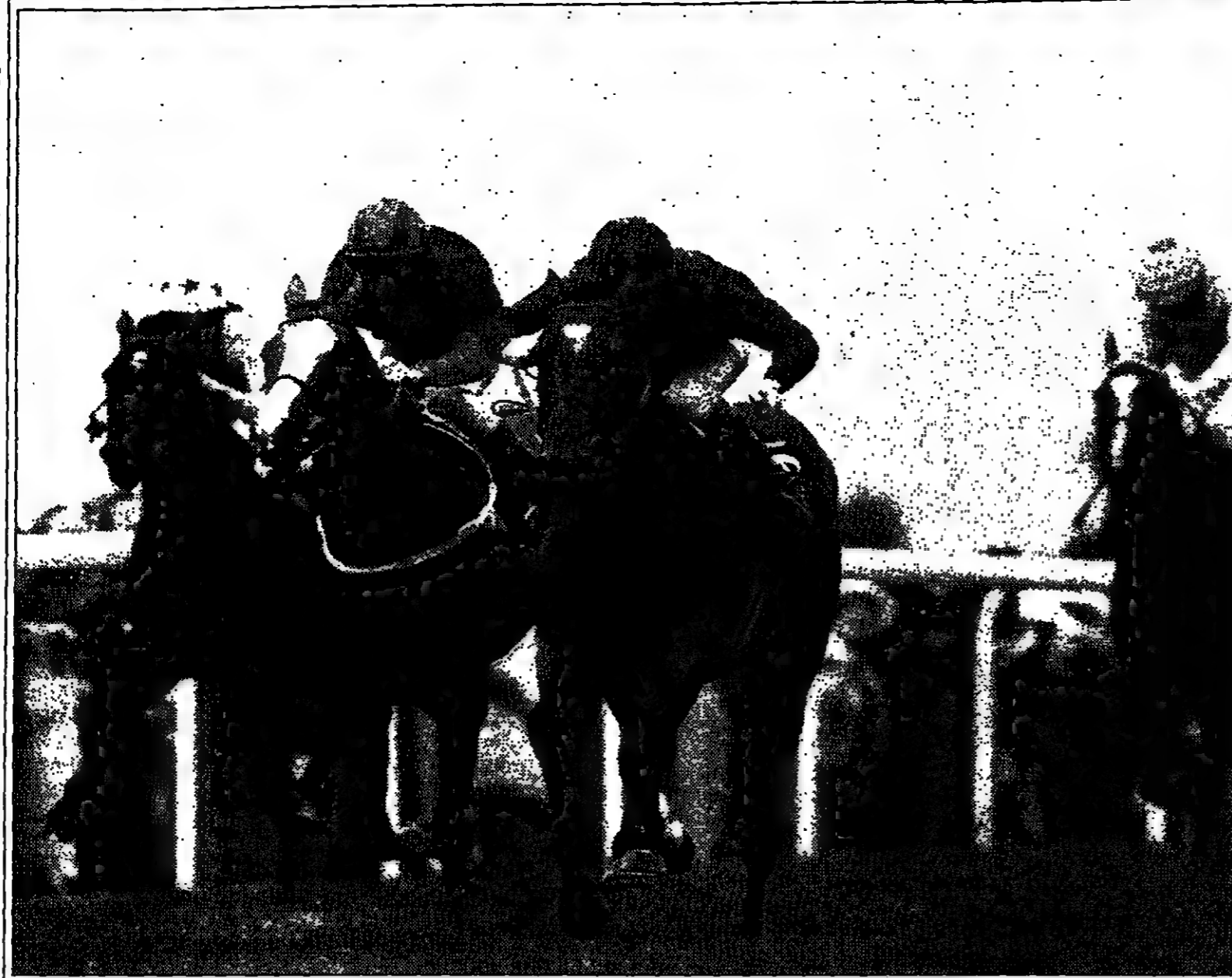
Oscar Schindler (3.05) won the Ormonde Stakes at Chester with an impressive ease and is taken to confirm his superiority there over Election Day in the Hardwicke Stakes.

Mick Kinane rode Oscar Schindler - who comes from the stable of Kevin Prendergast, which scored with Verglas here on Tuesday - with great confidence at Chelmsford. This big colt travelled well and quickened as soon as he was asked. Come October he could be an Arc horse.

The King's Stand Stakes has the look of a scintillating contest and there will be plenty of support for Mick Gimes, trained by the popular Jack Berry.

Mind Games, third in this last year, came back to his best when beating Struggle at Sandown recently, but the latter appears better drawn this afternoon against the stands rails.

With the speedy Evening-performance and Double Quick also drawn low all the pace should be on the stands rail, which may ensnare Struggle (4.20), to reverse the Sandown form.



Golden moment... Mick Kinane and Classic Cliche (right) snatch the Ascot Gold Cup from Jason Weaver and Double Trigger (centre) PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JONES

Chris Hawkins on how Double Trigger met his match in the Gold Cup

Weaver tactics backfire

CLASSIC CLICHE. Last year's St Leger winner, exposed the weakness of Double Trigger when finding the superior turn of foot to win the Ascot Gold Cup for Godolphin yesterday.

The story of the race is easy to tell. Jason Weaver set off in front on Double Trigger and Mick Kinane simply waited behind until pouncing a furlong out on Classic Cliche to settle the issue in half a dozen strides.

The result may not be so easy to accept, however, particularly for the man on the track who saw his hundred-grand bet bite the dust.

Weaver looked crestfallen as he came in on the beaten odds-on favourite and was no doubt asking himself the questions that he was on thousands of lips: Did he go fast enough?

A time three seconds slower than when he won last year would suggest too sedate a pace and too many moderate horses in the race were still in touch turning for home.

It was at this point that

Mark Johnston, trainer of Double Trigger, became seriously worried. "They were too close half a mile out, whereas I'd like to have seen them struggling at halfway. But I don't want to criticise my jockey," said Johnston.

"It's a thankless job being out in front, but that's our preferred tactic with this horse. I certainly don't want a furlong out on Classic Cliche to settle the issue in half a dozen strides."

Neither would Johnston blame the foot trouble which has bothered Double Trigger throughout the last week - he ripped off a shoe 10 days ago - and he returned to the unsaddling enclosure without his off-fore plate.

"Maybe I was a bit easier on him than I would normally be, but I was happy with him and he certainly gave sound," added the trainer.

Weaver would not have it that he went too slow to bludge Classic Cliche's speed: "The ground was slower than last year and I don't think the time of the race means any

thing. The idea was to go off in front and burn off the others - it would have been nice if we'd have had something to lead us for the first mile - but I was flat to the boards and Classic Cliche was just too good.

Classic Cliche is good and won the Dante Stakes, a Derby trial, over a mile and a quarter before winning the Doncaster St Leger last year.

son, so he is a proven high class performer. But would he stay two and a half miles and become the first since Ocean Swell in 1994 to take the Gold Cup after winning a Classic?

"I didn't think he would stay," said Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin. "But others in the camp thought he would. He's got so much courage, so much heart, although I did think they would go a bit quicker on Double Trigger."

"It's most unlikely he'll go for any more of the Cup races. He's in the King George here next month and the Arc will probably be his big autumn target. He should have the ground then - he prefers some cut."

Crisford admitted he had never screamed so much in his life during a final furlong - even when Lamartara won last year's Derby - and this normally composed man was back in control an hour later when the Godolphin two-year-old Shamikh won the Chesham Stakes first time out to earn a 28-1 quote for next year's Derby.

"We've seen as good to

come," said Sheikh Mohammed. "There are 12 more two-year-olds just arrived from Dubai and the runners this week (Jumail, Riban and Shamikh) are here as an experiment."

Ben Henbury said he has never trained a faster two-year-old than Topsy Creek, who landed quite a gamble in the Norfolk Stakes. Topsy Creek, by Dayur, held on by a length from Raphana, who spoiled his chance by hanging badly left across the course in the final furlong.

Raphana is owned by Peter Servill, who revealed that his star colt Celtic Swing is due to return at Doncaster on August 1 after being off the track for over a year.

Sylvain Guillot, the French jockey, maintained his 100 per cent record in this country when winning the Ribblesdale Stakes on the André Fabre-trained Tulipe.

Guillot had scored on his only other ride here, winning the 1994 Champion Stakes on the Darnier Emperor, but his last race was punctured when the stewards handed him a three-day whip ban.

wards altogether. But injury, which had scuppered Edwards' World Cup campaign last October and let in Goulding, now ruled out Goulding and let in Edwards; and inevitably he took his opportunity with a flawless display.

That came as no surprise to Larder. "Shaun is a thorough professional," he says. "He's also a very proud guy. He wants to play for England and he wants to tour with Great Britain, and he knows the way to do that is to perform when he pulls on an international jersey."

"All I have done is put Edwards and Goulding under pressure. And I've said to them that the way to get the job and the way to keep it is to produce the goods. If a player is loyal to me and goes on to the pitch and follows the game plan, and puts his body on the line, the only way I can repay him is to give him the shirt." For the next international.

Tought, though, both men are on crucial club duty. For Wigan, failure could deal a decisive blow to their title hopes as Saints will go five points clear if they extend their 17-game winning sequence.

One rugby league career will come to an end tonight when the Welsh forward Scott Quinnell, who is returning to union with Richmond, plays his final game for Wigan. But the rivalry between Edwards and Goulding looks set to run for some years yet.

The increasing assurance and value of Goulding's goal-kicking and an ability to produce tries from crossfield kicks of rare subtlety and accuracy are other weapons in his armoury. But when it comes to tactical kicking, Edwards is in a class apart.

In international terms, Goulding gained the ascendancy when Larder chose him for the match with France and overlooked St-

Rugby League

Push comes to shove as Bobbie comes to Shaun

Paul Fitzpatrick on the key duel in Saints' crucial Super League game at Wigan tonight

TONIGHT'S game at Central Park should resolve a doubt in Phil Larder's mind about the make-up of the England side for next week's European Championship decider with Wales.

The national coach would not say what that uncertainty was, but it is not about whether Wigan's Shaun Edwards or St Helens' Bobbie Goulding will be at scrum-half in Cardiff on Wednesday. He has already made up his mind about that.

Edwards and Goulding, however, will not know who is the man until Monday, and that will prove an additional incentive to each player in Super League's most significant fixture to date.

What makes this striving for individual supremacy so compelling is that it is so difficult to decide who is the more effective player. In recent years, opinion has swung one way and the other.

It depends on your taste in scrum-halves. Edwards is a master tactician, rarely hustled out of his rhythm and rarely prone to error, pursuing rugby league perfection as single-mindedly as Geoff Boycott pursued his runs.

Goulding, almost six years younger, is more unpredictable, more excitable, more prone to error, but also with that priceless asset of being able to change the course of a contest by his exuberance, talent and the sheer force of his determination.

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Chess

Kamsky slows Karpov blitz

Leonard Barden

GAME 5 of the Fide world Championship match at Elista was adjourned after 66 moves and six hours of four play yesterday as the challenger Gata Kamsky, trailing 6-5 in the 20-game series, nursed a small advantage against Anatoly Karpov's favourite Caro-Kann.

Kamsky is a pawn up in a tricky endgame of queens and pawns, and another long struggle looks in prospect when he resumes this afternoon. Despite the American's poor start to the match, specialists believe he may yet tire his opponent, 20 years his senior, by a succession of long games.

Karpov blitzed out his first 17 moves in eight minutes before varying from two games he lost this year at Monaco. Then the champion slowed down as Kamsky lined up his queen and rooks against the isolated black central pawn.

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Royal Ascot with form for the televised events

Table listing race names, distances, and key horses with their odds.

BBC-1

Table of race results for BBC-1, including 1300m Maiden Stakes, 1300m Filling Stakes, etc.

BBC-2

Table of race results for BBC-2, including 1300m Maiden Stakes, 1300m Filling Stakes, etc.

BBC-1

Table of race results for BBC-1, including 1300m Maiden Stakes, 1300m Filling Stakes, etc.

BBC-2

Table of race results for BBC-2, including 1300m Maiden Stakes, 1300m Filling Stakes, etc.

Newmarket tonight

Table listing race names, distances, and key horses with their odds.

6.45

Table of race results for 6.45, including 1300m Maiden Stakes, etc.

7.15

Table of race results for 7.15, including 1300m Maiden Stakes, etc.

7.45

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8.15

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Cricket News and Scores 0891 22 88+ Live Commentary 28 Match Reports 29

Game, Set & Match! Every competition must have winners. You could win two tickets to the Wimbledon Men's Final in this Sunday's Observer.

EURO 96 Venal Vogts Golden Sport

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

EURO 96

David Lacey on why England should forget military history as they plan strategy for the Wembley battle with Spain

Venables wary of old Basque rival

PEOPLE who remember dates and battles will already be comparing England's advance to the quarter-finals of the European Championship with the sorted version of English history.

Having settled with marauding Scots and quelled the Low Countries, Terry Venables' hearts of oak are about to take issue with Spain. Germany and France, moreover, could be ahead.

Barcelona, moreover, he enjoyed a healthy rivalry with Spain's coach Javier Clemente, then managing neighbouring Espanyol.

Butragueño, like Michel, has had to make way for younger men, although Clemente thought Raúl, the 19-year-old Real Madrid prodigy, was too young for this tournament.

more obdurate than the Dutch three nights ago. "Spain's strength lies in their teamwork," said Venables yesterday.

in Sunday's quarter-final at Old Trafford. Bert Vogts has lost Strunz, who misses the game after being sent off against Italy.



Clemente... teamwork first

But the French will have to break the habit of trying to score perfect goals. As much, more perhaps, goes for Portugal, who face the Czech Republic on Sunday at Vila Park, Portugal.

Geordie uproar over move

NEWCASTLE United, who have lavished players over the past four years, are poised for the ultimate transfer.

In a move which will shock traditional supporters, the Premiership runners-up are planning to abandon the recently rebuilt St James' Park for a new stadium across the Tyne in neighbouring Gateshead.

Although frantic efforts are being made by the city council, local MPs, and the Freeman of Newcastle - who oversee Town Moor, a huge possible site close to the city centre - to keep United near their historic home, councillors privately accept that the club may move by the millennium.

There is a real possibility they will move, said the Labour MP for Newcastle East, Nick Brown, who is fighting a rearguard action to keep United in Newcastle. He accused Gateshead of attempting to "pinch" the club.

Tony Flynn, leader of Newcastle City Council, held crisis talks with the club this week in an attempt to persuade them to stay. "I want to keep them in the city and I am working to that end, but I have no firm proposal to put forward yet," he admitted.

Vogts lashes Golden Goal

GERMANY's coach Berri Vogts yesterday condemned as "ridiculous" and "unfair" the Golden Goal system that will now settle stalemated matches in Euro 96.

"Masters of waste", a poll by the state television station RAI recorded that 62 per cent responding wanted Sacchi sacked for his failure.

Amor affair thrills Spain

Michael Walker on the midfielder with Wembley on his mind

TO SAY it has been a big week in the life of Guillermo Amor is the understatement of the tournament. On Tuesday at Elland Road, with five minutes to go and Euro 96, Amor popped up in the Romania six-yard box to put away a low header with a high volume.



Summer of love... Guillermo Amor celebrates his winner against Romania

since his international debut. Euro 96 has therefore typified the 28-year-old Barcelona midfielder's unerring role in Clemente's thoughts. In for the first game against Bulgaria, Amor was replaced by Spain's eventual scorer Alfonso. He was then left for the France match and scored against Romania only as a late substitute.

Even now that he is El Heroe de Leeds and his new boss at Barcelona, Bobby Robson, has praised his contribution, Amor still does not know whether tomorrow will be spent playing or watching.

collected a second yellow card in the semi-final with Benfica. He says, however, that the stadium owes him nothing and thinks the Spanish players should try to block out the atmosphere. Clemente said: "It's 2,000 of us against 70,000 drunkards."

what the English fans are singing so we can't worry." And he says Spain can win. "All squads are improving and Spain is not an exception. England are an example; nobody gave five passes for them at the beginning, now they seem to be one of the favourites. I think we can beat the English, and to do it at Wembley would be of even more merit."

Liverpool in £1m move for Vogel

LIVERPOOL's manager Roy Evans is to offer about £1 million to Switzerland's Johann Vogel after being impressed by the 19-year-old midfielder's mature performance against England a fortnight ago.

Gary Speed, the Welsh midfielder, will complete his £3.5 million move from Leeds to Everton today.

Goodwood tonight

Table of horse racing results for Goodwood, including races like 4.30 Iberian Dancer, 7.00 Fenny, and 7.30 Owl Dancer.

Redcar programme

Table of horse racing results for Redcar, including races like 2.55 North Archer, 3.30 Redcar, and 3.50 Redcar.

Ayr runners and riders

Table of horse racing results for Ayr, including races like 2.15 Wily Norman, 2.45 Leading Princess, and 2.15 Sealed Maiden.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including 2.45 (1m 40s), 2.50 (1m 40s), and 3.20 (1m 40s).

ROYAL ASCOT

Table of horse racing results for Royal Ascot, including races like 2.30 (1m 40s), 2.50 (1m 40s), and 3.20 (1m 40s).

SOUTHWELL

Table of horse racing results for Southwell, including races like 2.15 (1m 40s), 2.30 (1m 40s), and 2.45 (1m 40s).

Stretton

Table of horse racing results for Stretton, including races like 2.55 (1m 40s), 3.10 (1m 40s), and 3.25 (1m 40s).

Stretton

Table of horse racing results for Stretton, including races like 2.55 (1m 40s), 3.10 (1m 40s), and 3.25 (1m 40s).

Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring Royal Ascot and Redcar programmes with race times and odds.

14 SPORTS NEWS

Motor Racing

Renault out, Williams, Benetton in limbo

French engine supplier in surprise decision to quit Formula One

Alan Henry

RENAULT yesterday announced that it will withdraw from grand prix racing at the end of next season, a decision which may precipitate an engine-supply crisis as Williams and Benetton scramble for replacements.

sevent titles, a record beaten only by Ford and Ferrari. The French company has been in partnership with Williams since 1988 and with Benetton for two years, a partnership that costs it \$20 million per team each year.

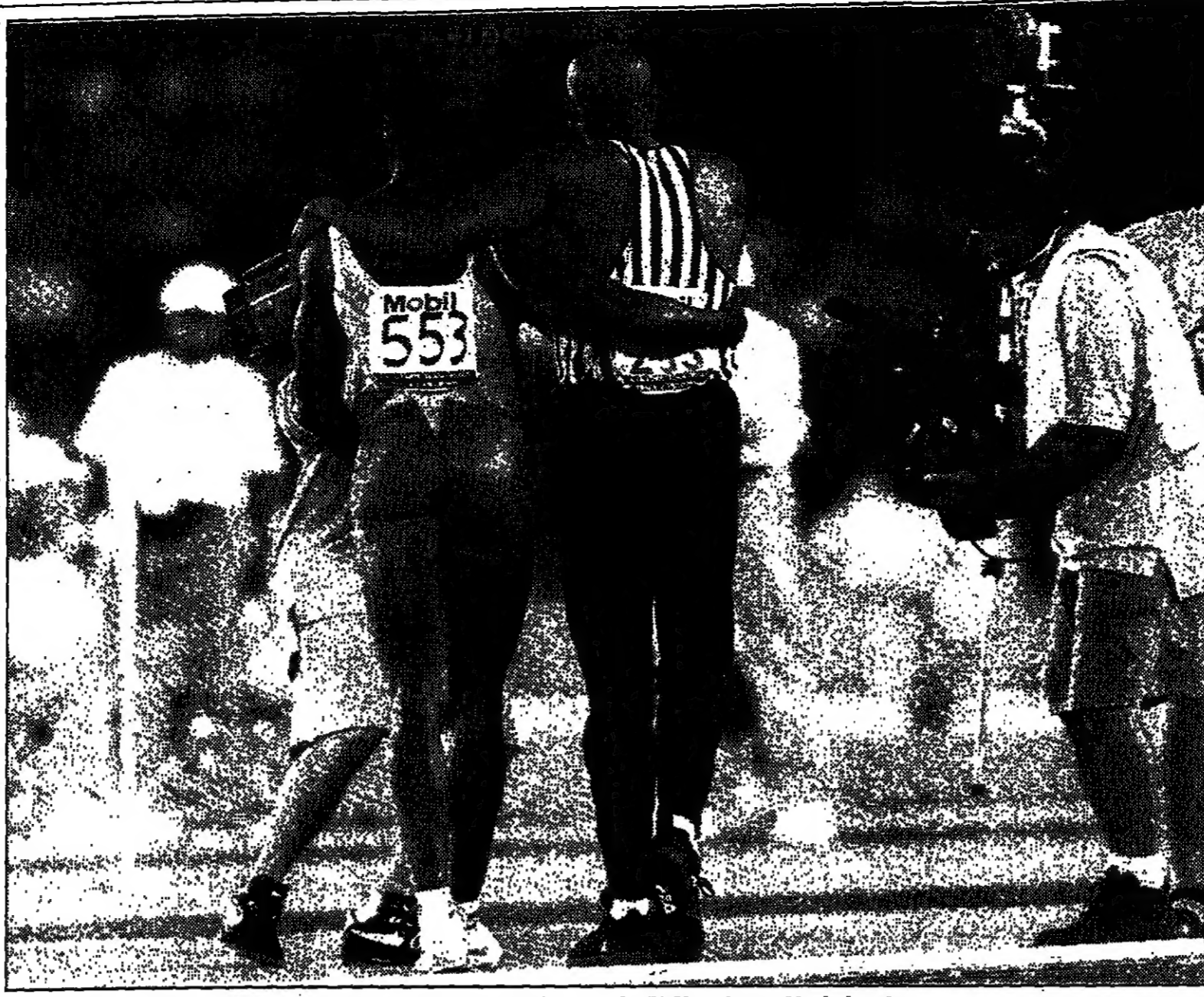
"We very much regret Renault's decision to leave Formula One at the end of 1997," said Frank Williams, the team owner. "They have contributed enormously to Williams's success in recent years with three constructors' and two drivers' world championships."

Rugby Union

Bénézech in Quins move

HARLEQUINS, seeking to strengthen their squad for European competition next season, have turned to France for cover for their club captain Jason Leonard.

Association of Rugby Players. A member of Paris's Racing club, he was one of the leading lights in a players' dispute with France's governing body on the eve of last November's meeting with the All Blacks in Toulouse.



Team mates... Lewis and Powell pose for the cameras after qualifying for the US Olympic squad in the long jump

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC RISSBERG

Athletics

Johnson quick to set his Olympic marker

MICHAEL Johnson ran the third-fastest 400 metres of all time, 43.41sec, at the United States Olympic trials in Atlanta, for his 53rd consecutive victory at the distance for which he is world champion.

Only the world record holder Butch Reynolds, at 43.29, and Johnson himself, who ran 43.39 to win last year's world championship, have been faster. Reynolds finished second in the trial in 43.91 and Alvin Harrison third in 44.09.

Golf

Moodie leads the defence

David Davies in Killarney where Great Britain and Ireland are preparing to resist the United States challenge for the Curtis Cup

TWO years ago, in hot and humid Chattanooga, a young blonde Scot hit one of the greatest shots in Curtis Cup history. All square with three to play, with the destiny of the entire match depending on hers, Janice Moodie first of all went one up on Carol Semple Thompson at the 16th and then, from the middle of the 18th fairway, hit a soaring six-iron, 165 yards on to the front left-hand corner of the green.

"We did not lose, because we halved the match, but we still didn't have the cup," I would say," she added, "but we are bit more determined because of that."

Walker said yesterday: "If I had to nominate one of our team to play for my life it would have to be Janice; she's just a terrific player." Indeed, she has won nine American tournaments during her three-year stay so far and is one of two Scots in the all-America first team: Mhairi McKay, a team-mate in 1994 as well as this year, is the other.

Further down the field, where engine-supply deals are already thin on the ground, a battle between the haves and have-nots can be expected.

Moodie got 2 1/2 points out of four last time, but just as Captain Sherry's outgoing character and outstanding record had an uplifting effect on his Walker Cup colleagues, so Moodie has assumed a leading role on and off the course in Killarney.

Walker believes her team have an outstanding chance of extending their already excellent recent record against the Americans. "The days of our being in awe of them are over," she said. "We can see our players going over to America and winning tournaments and so there is no reason to be frightened of them."

Sons rising to eclipse elders

Michael Britton in Munich

FOLLOWING in fathers' footsteps is the Ladies' Golf Union and, as she says, cannot organise championships while also playing in them. She is 29 and in her golfing prime so this represents quite a decision, for she will be a long time retired.

last week, returned a 67 that was well beyond the capabilities of Bernhard Langer, Paul Azinger and Ballesteros.

The Americans have three players under 20, including their champion Keil Ciesla, who will have gleamed something of the atmosphere that attends team matches from her brother Trip, who played in the (Joshua) Walker Cup match at Royal Portcullis last year.

Higgins, a 23-year-old from Waterville in Ireland, is the son of Liam, who once held the world long-driving record and is still smiting the ball a country mile on the European Seniors circuit. Ignacio's father Antonio played alongside Severiano Ballesteros in the first European Ryder Cup side in 1979, and the 24-year-old from Madrid began life in professional golf as a caddy for his father before Papa too joined the Senior Tour.

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Results. Golf: INTERNATIONAL OPEN (Munich): First round (54 holes) 1st, M. Westwood (GB) 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 2nd round (54 holes) 1st, M. Westwood (GB) 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Score tickets for the Euro '96 final. Tackle Julia. Catch Julia Carling on 'VH-1 for You' every night this week. You could win tickets to the Euro '96 final, courtesy of JVC. JVC EURO 96 VH-1

Little... an aw... BURN... Score tickets for the Euro '96 final. Tackle Julia. Catch Julia Carling on 'VH-1 for You' every night this week. You could win tickets to the Euro '96 final, courtesy of JVC. JVC EURO 96 VH-1

Cricket

Little Bird in an awful flap

David Hopps sees Lord's rise to Dickie's last stand

THE conviction that Dickie Bird has long been oblivious to the constraints of a normal life, preferring instead to traipse through his own benign fantasy, was strengthened beyond doubt as his 68th and final Test began yesterday with a moment of pure theatre.

side, the other hand buried deep into his pocket amid the counters, scissors, sticking plaster and other upspring accoutrements. Bird's finger was raised with a flourish. Coming only a few minutes after the Lord's crowd had risen to cheer in tribute, there was an overwhelming sense of emotional relief.



First blood to Bird... the finger rises for leg-before to end the England captain Mike Atherton's innings after five balls

County Championship: Warwickshire v Kent

Brown reaches new goal

John Beaumont at Edgbaston
IT HAS NOT been a good week to be a Scotsman in England, but Dougie Brown found something to smile about here yesterday.

ton after six weeks out with a fractured left wrist. Brown and Shaun Pollock have shouldered a heavy burden in Kent's county cricket, but now they have noted, with some alarm, that Pollock has bowled more overs than any other Warwickshire bowler this summer.

Yorkshire v Leicestershire

Wells makes leaders suffer

Paul Weaver at Bradford
YORKSHIRE'S match here last season against Glamorgan was almost over in two days and the pitch was reported by the umpires. Yesterday it looked as flat as last year's party balloon and Leicestershire, who won a precious toss, were 461 for four against the championship leaders at the close.

pressed by their surroundings, for there is no unlovelier county ground than Park Avenue. Its solitary charm, its rather eccentric old pavilion, was torn down in 1985 and not replaced, so glum spectators now watch from a tent while drinking keg beer from plastic cups.

Somerset v Worcestershire

Seven up for Caddick

David Foot at Bath
ANDY CADDICK knew what he was being watched and responded with seven for 53. It was impossible to get the ball off him, it seemed. He bowled unchanged for more than 27 overs, a marathon man and increasingly a worthy candidate for the Pakistan series.

The Guardian Offer

Add some grease, some lard and a good helping of jelly.

Half price dry cleaning at Sketchley
The voucher below gets you half way towards half price dry cleaning using Sketchley's Golden Service.

Scoreboard table with columns for Somerset v Worcestershire, Yorkshire v Leicestershire, Warwickshire v Kent, and Derbyshire v Middlesex. Includes player names, runs, wickets, and overs.

Scoreboard table for Somerset v Worcestershire, showing player statistics and match details.

Scoreboard table for Yorkshire v Leicestershire, showing player statistics and match details.

Scoreboard table for Warwickshire v Kent, showing player statistics and match details.

Scoreboard table for Somerset v Worcestershire, showing player statistics and match details.

Scoreboard table for Derbyshire v Middlesex, showing player statistics and match details.

Tennis

'Injured' Muster pulls out of Wimbledon

Stephen Bierley
THOMAS MUSTER, the world No. 2 who was controversially seeded seventh for Wimbledon next week, withdrew yesterday with a thigh injury.

Grand Slam tournament that does not adhere to the rankings for its seedings — and Muster's record there is four matches, four defeats. Grass is not his surface.

The Austrian, playing Brett Steven of New Zealand at the Halle grass court tournament in Germany, led 6-1 when he felt a sharp pain in his left thigh. He continued but lost 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 and then said he would not be at Wimbledon.

His place in the draw will be taken by Holland's Richard Krajicek, who lost to him in the final of the Italian Open this year. Krajicek, who was due to play Britain's Chris Wilkinson in the first round, becomes the No. 17 seed. Wilkinson now faces an easier task against the 34-year-old Swede Anders Jarryd, the No. 1 lucky loser from the qualifying tournament. In the third round Krajicek is likely to face Greg Rusedski; the British No. 2 might have preferred Muster.

Britons blow their chances

David Irvine at Nottingham

QUARTER-finals day at the Nottingham Open yesterday produced an altogether more familiar scenario for an expectant British crowd. For although opportunities abounded, too few were accepted as both Tim Henman and Mark Petchey tossed away beckoning semi-final places.

Once again a potentially glorious day ended in disaster and raised serious questions about the mental toughness of British players. Henman was beaten only because he lost concentration at 4-1 in the second-set tie-break and fluffed two backhand volleys he should have made.

CARTIER INTERNATIONAL POLO CORONATION CUP - ENGLAND V BRAZIL SUNDAY 28TH JULY Guards Polo Club, Smiths Lawn BOOK TICKETS NOW 0171 413 3355

Minor Counties Championship... Starting today... OTHMER MATCH (11.0): three days: 11.1-11.3: Preston 6-1-10, Bedfordshire 1-1-0, Northants 1-1-0, Leicestershire 1-1-0, Warwickshire 1-1-0.

Minor Counties Championship... Starting today... OTHMER MATCH (11.0): three days: 11.1-11.3: Preston 6-1-10, Bedfordshire 1-1-0, Northants 1-1-0, Leicestershire 1-1-0, Warwickshire 1-1-0.

Golden Service cleaning at Sketchley. HALF PRICE TOKEN AFFIX 2ND TOKEN HERE. Includes a coupon for half price dry cleaning.

Trigger flops in Ascot Gold Cup, page 12
Renault to quit Formula One, page 14

Amor makes Spaniards merrier, page 13
Muster pulls out of Wimbledon, page 15

SportsGuardian

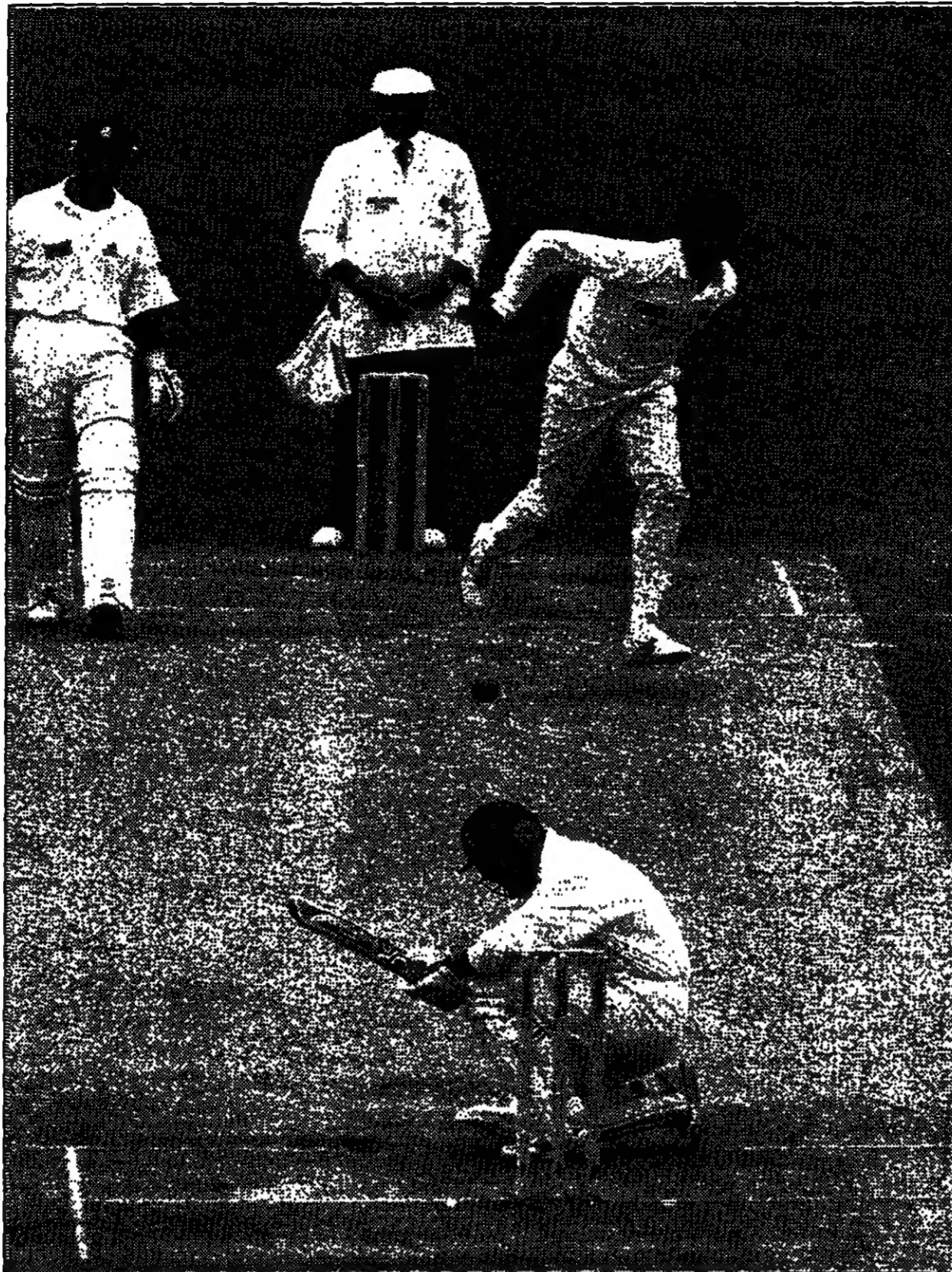
SECOND TEST: ENGLAND v INDIA

Lefties put England right

Mike Selvey at Lord's

SOME higher power, with a sense of humour at that, had his fun with Dickie Bird at Lord's yesterday. Bad light and drizzle first thing, an lbw decision in the opening over when play began half an hour late, and a sepulchral gloom that would have had his light meter twitching for much of the day... it was all enough to drive the sanest of umpires into retirement.

before, with impeccable timing, play finally succumbed to the light just as the second new ball was taken. Thorpe, a consistent and battle-hardened Test batsman now, albeit without all the centuries his play has merited, will resume this morning 15 short of what would be only his third hundred in 28 Tests. His wicketkeeper partner, a forthright contrast to the highly strung batsman of the winter, has made 69. It completed an emotional day for Bird. Before play began, players of both teams lined up in front of the pavilion so that the great eccentric, followed at a discreet distance by his Australian counterpart — Berk and Hair, someone remarked — could run the gauntlet. Bird waved and blubbed; Asharuddin put his arms around him and gave him a hug. Perhaps he whispered something in Bird's ear, too, for the odds against an lbw decision coming so soon or so spectacularly from that quarter would have been astronomical. But the England captain was caught on the crease by Srinath's breakback and that was that. Bird must have surprised himself.



Flight path... Thorpe takes evasive action to a ball by Srinath watched carefully by umpire Bird

ENGLAND First Innings

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| M A Atherton lbw b Srinath | 0 |
| A Stewart b Srinath | 22 |
| N Hussain c Redfern b Ganguly | 22 |
| G P Thorpe not out | 28 |
| G A Hill c Srinath b Ganguly | 1 |
| R C Irani b Prasad | 1 |
| JR C Russell not out | 28 |
| Extras (nb, 10) | 22 |
| Total (for 5, 20 overs) | 136 |

Fall of wickets: 0, 27, 28, 102, 107

To bats: C C Lewis, D G Cook, P J Martin, A D Marshall

Bowling: Srinath 22-4-31-2; Prasad 20-4-47-1; Misra 18-1-25-0; Kumble 12-3-34-2; Ganguly 9-1-39-2; Tendulkar 2-1-0-0

INDIA First Innings

| | |
|--|-----|
| Srinath v Redfern, A D Jadeja, R S Dravid, P R Tendulkar, M Asharuddin, S Ganguly, M R Mongia, A Kumble, J Srinath, P R Mhambrey, B K V Prasad | 28 |
| Extras (nb, 10) | 22 |
| Total | 136 |

Immediately Hussain, on 22, was almost run out as Thorpe scrambled off the mark. Shortly after that Thorpe, on seven, might reasonably have been given out leg-before to the first ball of a new spell from Prasad. These were important escapes, for thereafter Thorpe

played with great maturity, driving firmly and defending solidly, body behind the ball. Hussain too appeared to have weathered things in a way alien to most previous England No. 3s, reaching 36 in the best part of three hours. It was when Asharuddin departed from his front-line

attack and called up Ganguly on his debut, that the breakthrough came. Ganguly bowls at an enthusiastic skiddy medium pace that is not dangerous but demands respect. But Hussain, relaxing a little, thought he saw easy pickings and drove extravagantly outside off stump; he edged and

Rathore made a meal of a simple chance to second slip. Graeme Hick, who likes to seize the initiative early, then tried to smash a wide good-length ball without first assessing the pitch's pace and bounce, and merely lobbed it to mid-off. Then Ramnis Irani shuffled over too far to his second ball and was bowled round his legs by Prasad. Jaunty at Edgbaston, his batting crucially failed to adapt to the needs of the moment here.

Adams and Anderton injury worries give England pre-Nadal depression

David Lacey

TERRY VENABLES'S plans for reaching the semi-finals of the European Championship by beating Spain at Wembley tomorrow are facing severe disruption through injuries and suspension.

Paul Ince is banned for this game and Tony Adams and Darren Anderton are struggling to be fit. Anderton's hamstring injury looks the more serious. The Tottenham player, who missed the bulk of last season after a hernia operation, did not train yesterday.

Adams continues to suffer a resession to the cartilage operation he underwent in the new year. Scar tissue is the problem and Adams needed to rest the knee before Tuesday's match against Holland. He should make it. If not, Venables would be left with only three players — Gar-

eth Southgate, Gary Neville and Sol Campbell — who have had any sort of centre-back experience. With Jamie Redknapp recovering from damaged ankle ligaments, the absence of both Anderton and Ince would seriously disturb the balance of his team in a midfield area where

the Spaniards are particularly strong. In this situation, and with David Platt already lined up to replace Ince, Venables would probably switch Steve McManaman to the left and recall Steve Stone on the right.

Riddles County Riddles.

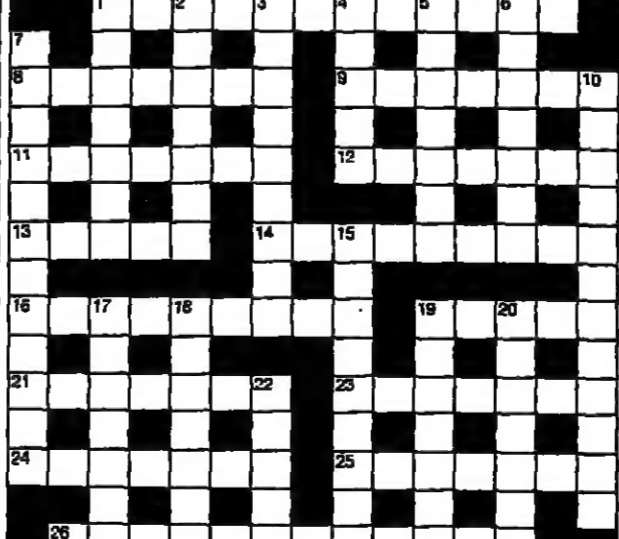
No. 8. Vertical Robbery

- David Bloxham who's partial to a pint of Riddles County and doesn't mind playing the fool to fund it, has a habit of encouraging visiting real ale drinkers to take part in a modest wager. (which he usually wins!)
- When he's in predatory mode our David takes up a strategic position at the end of the bar cultivating a slightly gormless look. He places a stack of 5p pieces in front of him as he savours his pint of County.
- Once a likely prospect in a range he engages them in conversation, the weather, the price of fish or the latest scandal. As soon as they look at his pile of coins he moves in, offering a wager as follows — "I'll give you 5p for every 50p you can stand upright on its side on this bit of the bar"
- "Easy" they say thinking David must be a bit simple. However David always walks away a winner. How does he do it (without shaking the bar)?



Guardian Crossword No 20,685

Set by Custos



- Across**
- 1 Amassess amphetamine and increases rate (7,5)
 - 2 First sign of rubbish infestates park officers (7)
 - 3 Herbert, actor and poet, Italian (7)
 - 11 Miser preserves meat in salt (4-3)
 - 12 Lancashire town quickly associated with Norway (7)
 - 13 Elegant image (5)
 - 14 What cross-legged tailors use, getting round lots of directors? (5-5)
 - 15 Arranged to steal pudding that's over (7,2)
 - 19 Move fast, we hear, in this lively dance (5)
 - 21 One who's taken the pledge, practically meaningless venture (7)
 - 23 More than one awakener paints, losing head (7)
- Down**
- 1 Swiss gets low-down on Welshman (7)
 - 2 Treatment for illness caused by party he ruined (7)
 - 3 Lady Esle, when confused, is very tractable (5,3)
 - 4 Shropshire lad nearly trips up, coming in soaking (5)
 - 5 A violent blow to spoil love (7)
 - 6 Extortioner, precise with gold (7)
 - 7 Papers for electoral region to continue strongly despite opposition (5,7)
 - 10 One's put in a plate Dad's

Low scorers in the Euro 96 song contest



Frank Keating

Tricknam. England were level 3-3 with Ireland at half-time. Then, as the footballers did on Tuesday, the white shirts stunned both themselves and the nation by scoring more than 30 points in an inspired second half.

BILLY CONNOLLY suggests that The Archers theme tune should be sung as England's anthem at Wembley. Somebody on a radio phone-in yesterday suggested the Match of the Day catchy darum-darum-darum would be just the job. An alleged poet rang from a phone-box in Luton to suggest that the press called Gazzza a wally. But he stuffed 'em with a chip and a volley should be set to music. Flower of Scotland is a ready-made thing, but a) they sing it with fervour up there, b) at least they know the words, and c) it is less of a monotonous dirge than God Save The Queen. Although, mind you, the latter is positively Mozartian compared with Italy's national anthem: there was no remote possibility of an Azzeri win on Wednesday after that gloomy drawn-out dirge. If the best anthem is going to be victorious at Euro 96, then the French might as well pack the trophy already.

On the left wing in only his second international, the first black man to play for England since 1910, Chris Oti ran in a sublime hat-trick of tries. After the third, a little knot of beered-up pub mates down by Oti's left corner-flag attempted to do justice to the wing's feat and struck up with the only negro spiritual they knew. They gave it full belt — for 1 1/2 lines, anyway. A new "National Anthem" was born. And thrived, because historians mark the match as the beginning of the England XV's continuing seasons of pomp. Where you do jarringly notice England's lack of its own un-Unionist anthem is at the faraway Commonwealth Games. It has been touchingly evocative down the years to see the podium tears after the medals ceremony and hear full-blown male-voice homages *Maes hen wlad fy nhadau* roll out of the PA system for, say, Berwyn Jones or Lynn Davies, or when Danny Boy has lilyingly serenaded, say, Barry McGuigan or Mary Peters: *But come ye back to the summer in the meadow* And when the valley's hushed and white with snow. Alas, no glorious tearjerker of that ilk for the English. But at least it was unforgettable on Tuesday to hear the cry "Good ol' Teddy!" read the Wembley air — a joyously booming acclamation not heard on an English sporting field for an exact century to the very month, when Edward, Prince of Wales, led in his first Derby winner, Persimmon, at Epsom (June 3, 1896) and the following week's Punch noted: "The cheers swelled to a hurricane which was heard for miles around." Good ol' Teddy.

THAT'S no anthem, though. Wembley's most apt one tomorrow for Teddy and Gazzza's lot should probably be Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes. The Beavis boys' 'objectivistic plus Drink! Drink! Drink!' would be somewhat inappropriate if England meet the test-total Germans next week. On the other hand, how about, with a nice curtsy not only to England's colourful barn-door saviour in gloves but to all things Euro in '96, setting just these three simple words to martial music and belting them out as the anthem: *Tallos, gelatin, and Seaman* And no second line to stumble over.

By doing what he could he would do. Encouraging 5p for 50p as soon as they are standing 4p-4p-4p per pint every time!

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.